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Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Fabia: it's finally over

Eduardo Fabia responds to reporters' questions outside the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, soon after being acquitted of all charges last Friday.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The conclusion of the five-day jury trial for an Artman garbage truck driver who was facing homicide charges for a fatal car accident back in February 2021 was an emotional one, with Eduardo Fabia immediately bursting into tears after the verdict acquitting him of all charges was announced.

Fabia, 50, walked out of Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan's courtroom last Friday with tears in his eyes and a smile on his face after he was found not guilty of one count of homicide by vehicle and one count of failure to obey a traffic signal.

In a brief statement from an overjoyed Fabia following the

See FABIA on Page 4

Palacios to testify in Torres criminal case proceedings

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto E. Tolentino has denied Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios' motion to quash the subpoena served him by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' counsel to testify in the ongoing criminal proceedings against the governor.

Last Friday, following a hearing on Palacios' third-party notice and motion to quash the subpoena, Tolentino denied Palacios' motion and ordered that he appear at the evidentiary hearing set for tomorrow, May 31, at 9am.

"The court denies Lt. Governor Palacios' Motion to Quash Subpoena to Testify. To avoid undue burden, Palacios shall only appear at the Evidentiary Hearing, except

See PALACIOS on Page 4

3 from NMI win in NOAA art contest

Three young artists from the CNMI have been named winners in the NOAA Fisheries' inaugural "Share the Shore & Sea Youth Art Contest" that helped raise awareness about responsible wildlife viewing in the Pacific Islands region.

More than 250 students from American Samoa, the CNMI, Hawaii, and the continental United States sub-

See NMI on Page 4

Visitor arrivals up 2,027% in April

Arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota grew 2,027% to 5,593 visitors in April 2022, compared to 263 visitors received in April 2021, according to a Marianas Visitors Authority news release last Friday.

The MVA statement said the arrival figure is an overall decrease of 86% from 39,663 visitors received in April 2020, marking another month

See VISITOR on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

LOCAL
DFEMS is looking for information on a fire that engulfed a van behind Club 88.
PAGE 13

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Basic bleeding control techniques could help save a life in the event of a gunshot emergency.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Ray Liotta, the actor best known for playing mobster Henry Hill in "Goodfellas" has died.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Thanks to the generosity of the CNMI community, what was initially intended to be a one-day donation drive for low-lying islands in Chuuk turned into three days, garnering enough donations to fill a 40-foot container.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local

Chuuk relief drive garners donations to fill 40-foot container

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to the generosity of the CNMI community, what was initially intended to be a one-day donation drive for low-lying islands in Chuuk turned into three days, garnering enough donations to fill a 40-foot container.

The Ach Chuuk CNMI Association began their "Help/Ayuda/Alisi Chuuk" relief drive last May 21 in San Jose, Saipan, but had to eventually extend it to May 23. Association president Own Cholymay said the residents of the low-lying islands within the upper, mid, and lower Mortlocks and Nómwun Weito, Nómwun Pattiw, and Páféong in the northwest region of Chuuk are on the receiving end of your generosity."

The relief drive was intended to collect much needed supplies for the residents of the low-lying islands of Mortlocks and northwest regions in Chuuk that continue to be affected by the inundation of saltwater as early as December last year.

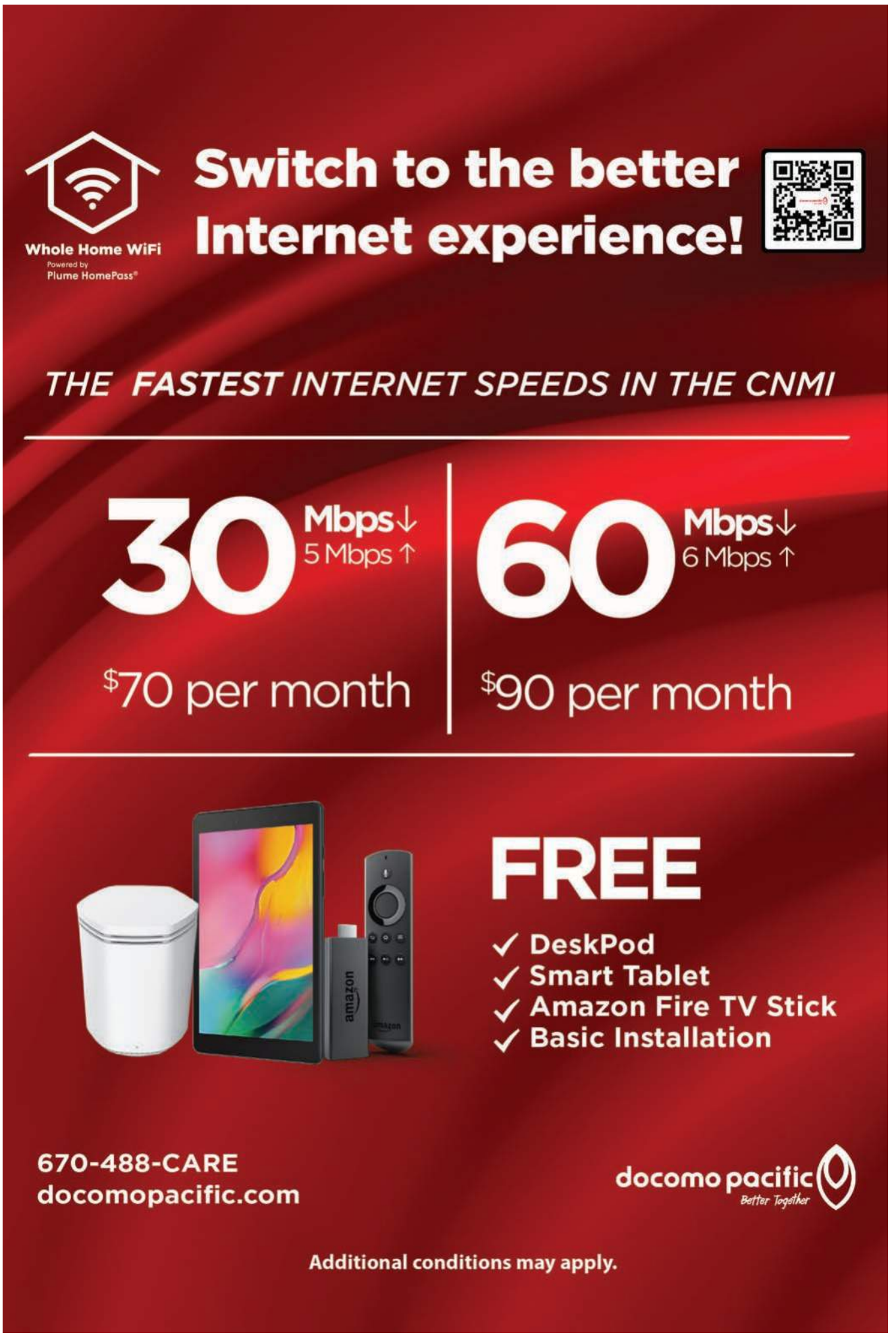
Elfriede Suda, who was the designated focal point for the relief drive, said the container left the Port of Saipan last Thursday, May 26, 2022. and its estimated arrival in Chuuk is either Sunday, June 5 or Monday, June 6, 2022.

Suda said the 40-foot container was donated by Kyowa Shipping Company, Ltd. and Saipan Shipping Company, Inc. Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc. waived the terminal fees, while the Commonwealth Ports Authority waived the wharfage fee.

The contents of the container included sacks of rice; canisters of butane gas; canned meats like Chef Boyardee, Ox & Palm Corned Beef, Black Label Luncheon Meat, SPAM, tuna, Vienna sausage, and sardines; assorted canned vegetables and beans; coffee sticks; salt; assorted crackers; hygiene items that included toothpastes, toothbrushes, shampoos, bath soaps, hand sanitizers, toilet papers, paper towels, and sanitary napkins; mosquito coils; Sapporo Ichiban ramen; ramen bowls; cereals; bottled water; milk; juice; new and used slippers; shoes and hats; used children's toys; baby walkers; children's bikes; used bags and luggage; and used clothing of assorted sizes.

Cholymay extended the association's warmest *'Kinisou Chapwúr"* to the relief drive's donors, volunteers, and partner agencies and groups.

"I thank you all for filling our hearts with love and thanks for the amazing gifts," said Cholymay.



CNMI joins nation in Memorial Day rites, commemorations

By LEIGH GASES
Correspondent
LEIGH_GASES@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

The Commonwealth joins the rest of the nation today in celebrating Memorial Day, which honors U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. In line with this, all military members, families, and the public are being invited today to the Memorial Day celebration at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi at 9am.

As part of the ceremony, the U.S. Marine Corps will conduct a flyover today, starting at 10am in Guam and 10:45am on Saipan. Four F/A-18 Hornets assigned to the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 will fly from south to north starting in Agat and pass over the Guam Veterans Cemetery at 10am and will continue on to Saipan where it will pass over the Veterans Cemetery at 10:45am.

Last Wednesday, in recognition of the service of all active-duty and honorably discharged members of the U.S. military, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation recognizing May as Military Service Appreciation Month and May 23 to 30 as CNMI Memorial Week.

The proclamation signing was witnessed by Office of Veterans Affairs staff, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority staff, Department of Public Works staff, and Department of Corrections staff.

In the proclamation, Torres said Memorial Week will be observed "as a week of prayer for permanent peace and paying tribute to our fallen veterans for their unselfish, dedicated service in defending our country."

He also calls upon everyone to "observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities in support and honor of our troops, veterans, and their families all over the world. I also encourage our fellow citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity for the current and former members U.S armed forces, including those who have died in the protection of our freedoms.

Stanly Iakopo, executive director of the Office of Veterans Affairs, who has served in the U.S Air Force in several capacities, thanked the governor for signing the proclamations.

"We just wanted to express our gratitude for taking the time and also allowing this moment—a momentous day for us to be here and to carry out the proclamation. ...For our fallen heroes and for those who have sacrificed for our freedom, thank you. …Without those who had laid down their lives for us, they're pretty much why we're here. They're the main reason why we're free. And that's why this is a special and important thing."

Torres is seen signing the two proclamations last Wednesday declaring May as Military Service Appreciation Month and May 23 to 30 as CNMI Memorial Week. LEIGH GASES

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2022-005

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: June 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Tinian Children's Park Improvement Project

Project package will be available on **May 30, 2022**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, NMC Campus, San Jose, Tinian, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars ($100.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the NMHC Central Office Reception Counter in Garapan or at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, NMC Campus, San Jose, Tinian.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, NMC Campus, San Jose, Tinian, on June 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m., local time (ChST). Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-bid Conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net or fax to (670)234-9021, no later than 4:00 p.m. June 09, 2022.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866 / 9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
NATIONAL SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION
MAY 23 - JUNE 5, 2022
WHY DO WE
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www.dps.gov.mp

CNMI Democrats invite the public to a 'Pride Wave & Mixer'

Pride Month is just around the corner, and the NMI Democrats are out and proud. We are the party of diversity and inclusion, and the Democratic Party of the NMI cordially invites the public to join us for our Pride Mixer event at our party headquarters, located at the Quartermaster traffic light on Middle Road.

Join us on Friday, June, 3, 2022, at 4pm for a Pride roadside wave followed by a Pride Mixer at 5:30pm. Music, light refreshments, and free smiles will be available all night long.

"Queer representation in the political process is important," said Democratic Party chair Jonathan Cabrera, "and that representation includes leadership and decision making in our party."

Party vice chair Luella Marciano said, "For the first time in the history of the NMI Democratic Party, we have two party officers who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. It's an exciting time to be a Democrat!"

Party secretary Melia Johnson is proud of how much the NMI Democratic Party has evolved in the area of LGBTQIA+ representation: "Our party reflects the diversity of our human community and we are proud of that fact."

Party treasurer Shawna Indalecio added, "We encourage the community to come out and meet their party members and elected officials who will be in attendance for the party's first ever Pride event."

"Looking to run for office? The Candidates Resource Packet is available on our website at www.nmidems.org. Candidate outreach is ongoing, and all interested and qualified individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are most definitely encouraged to reach out to us," said Cabrera.

For more information contact the office at (670) 234–5028, the hotline at 484–3367 (DEMS), or email us at info@nmidems.org. ***(PR)***

CNMI is getting $8.82M in CIP grant funding for FY 2022

The Northern Marianas is receiving $8.82 million out of $27.72 million in Capital Improvement Project grant funding for fiscal year 2022, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter that Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced the grant funding Wednesday that shows that American Samoa is getting the highest amount among four insular areas with $10,262,636, while the CNMI is second in the amount of $8,829,728. He said Guam is receiving $6,627,636, while the U.S. Virgin Islands is getting $2 million.

The delegate said the funding will go to priorities identified by the governor's office to address infrastructure needs across the Marianas.

U.S. Congress appropriates $27.72 million annually in mandatory CIP funds to support infrastructure projects in U.S. insular areas such as schools, hospitals, water, and solid waste systems. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PALACIOS

From Page 1

by further order of the court," the order stated.

Tolentino also ordered that questions for Palacios be limited to any advice he has gotten from the OAG in regard to premium travel tickets.

"The court orders that examination of the witness at the Evidentiary Hearing shall be limited by relevance to advice, if any, tendered by the Attorney General or the Office of the Attorney General to Lt. Gov. Palacios regarding travel policy or the issuance of premium travel tickets. This order shall not limit Lt. Gov. Palacios' appearance at trial in this matter," he said.

Tolentino further explained that based on the arguments made by the parties and applicable law, he found that issuing a subpoena for Palacios to appear at the evidentiary hearing is not unreasonable nor oppressive.

"Palacios has served as acting governor, and his testimony may be relevant to show the relationship between the Office of the Attorney General and defendant," he said.

Back in April, the court set an evidentiary hearing on May 31, on Torres' Motion for the OAG to withdraw or be disqualified as a prosecutor.

Last week, the defense served Palacios a subpoena to testify at the May 31 hearing, stating Palacios acted as the acting governor when Torres was off-island. While acting governor, Palacios allegedly authorized, or otherwise delegated the authorization of travel documents.

The defense argued that the testimony of Palacios was needed at the Evidentiary Hearing as the best, and possibly only, evidence to show that Palacios sought advice from the Office of the Attorney General related to policy matters, in his official capacity as lieutenant governor.

Last May 26, Palacios submitted the motion to quash the subpoena through his attorney, Michael N. Evangelista, who argued that any testimony that Palacios could provide at the evidentiary hearing on Torres' motion for the disqualification of the OAG would lack legal or factual relevance because he claims he was not involved in any discussions between the governor and the Office of the Attorney General related to the charges brought against the governor.

Additionally, Evangelista argued that Palacios was not a member of the Travel Committee that worked on the Travel Regulations referred to in Torres' motion.

"Rather, he said he could only testify to public policy and acts in his official capacity as lieutenant governor," the lawyer said.

Lastly, Evangelista argued that the subpoena against his client must be quashed because compliance with the subpoena would subject Palacios to undue burden because day-to-day attendance at the hearing would infringe on his client's duties and responsibilities as lieutenant governor.

FABIAN

From Page 1

court proceedings, he said he is just grateful it's over. "I am so thankful because it's finally over. This problem I've been facing for so long is finally over," he said.

Joining Fabia throughout the course of the trial were his friends, family, and his employer.

Fabia's lawyers, Office of the Public Defender's Vina Seelam and JP Nogues, declined to comment following the proceedings.

Office of the Attorney General's Steve Kessell, who led the prosecution, stated that he is thankful to the jury who did their job in weighing the evidence placed before them and coming to a conclusion in this case.

"We would like to thank the jury for its service. They are a vital part of the system. We put the matter before the jury, the jury did its job and we just thank them for their service," he said.

The fatal car accident, which happened at an intersection in Puerto Rico on Saipan, claimed the life of Raju Bhai.

During the closing arguments last Friday, Kessell urged the jury to look at the evidence laid out in front of them and to listen closely to the testimonies of the witnesses and to determine that Fabia indeed ran a red light and because of his failure to stop, crashed into the Honda Ridgeline and killed Raju.

In her closing arguments, Seelam urged the jury to not only listen to the inconsistency of the witness testimonies and how it changed over the year, but to also look at the video surveillance that showed no red light or green light before the crash.

Seelam also stated that what has remained consistent over the months that have passed since the accident was Fabia's statement.

"Fabia and Cristopher Lucero's testimonies have remained consistent over the year. They may have made a mistake regarding which lane they were in prior to the crash, but their stories have remained the same," she said.

In addition, Seelam reiterated that the crash did not cause the death of Bhai. Instead, it was because the driver of the Honda Ridgeline, Quin Manglona, had not followed CNMI traffic laws that prohibit passengers from sitting in the bed of a truck if there is space in the cab.

In addition, witness testimony also uncovered that Bhai and Rommel Irang, the other passenger on the Honda Ridgeline on the day of the accident, were seated on the bed of the tuck to secure a generator while it was being transported to the marina. Despite this, Seelam said, the driver was never questioned by police or treated like a suspect.

"If Bhai was inside the cab, and he and Irang were not seated on the bed of the truck to secure a generator, Mr. Bhai would still be alive," she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Irang sustained serious injuries from the collision, while Manglona, did not sustain any injuries. Fabia and Lucero were unscathed.

Fabia was arrested a day after for alleged traffic signal violations, false reports, and homicide by vehicle. DPS officers alleged that Fabia and Lucero lied to police and were at fault in the accident.

NMI

From Page 1

mitted entries. The budding artists highlighted one or more protected species, encouraging us to appreciate them from afar:

- Whales (100 yards)
- Dolphins (50 yards)
- Sea turtles (10 feet)
- Hawaiian monk seals (50 feet, 150 feet for mom and pup pairs)
- Corals (no touching or standing on)

The artists showed their creativity not just in the scenes they created, but also in the materials they used. Many students stuck to classic materials like pencil, crayon, and ink, while others branched out into watercolor and oil pastels. One 2nd grade student even incorporated seeds and seed pods into their masterpiece!

A diverse team of scientists, resource managers, communicators, digital media specialists, and others took on the art-judging task. They rated each piece of art based on three components:

- Connection to the Share the Shore and Sea theme
- Technique or quality of work
- Originality or creativity

"I was really impressed with a lot of the entries I reviewed," said Joey Bennington-Castro, senior science writer with Lynker at the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office. "These students did not make judging easy for us!"

Winning art will be featured in the 2023 NOAA Share the Shore & Sea digital calendar. Students will enjoy a virtual visit and awards presentation with NOAA marine scientists this summer.

Enjoy student art and #SharetheShore with us all week on Facebook and Twitter as we head outside to enjoy Memorial Day weekend.

GRADES K-2
Winning Entries

- ***Help Dolphins*** by Ji Yu K., Grade 1, Hawai'i
- ***Have a great day! And have fun! But do not go too close to them*** by Lia K., Grade 1, Hawai'i
- ***Stay 300 Feet Away to Enjoy*** by Quentin L., Grade 1, Hawai'i

Honorable Mention

Gibbs A., Etuale A., Luke B., Aileen K., Gina K., Skyla M., Nel O., Ashey T., Praylee Ann S., Fiona Y.

GRADES 3-5
Winning Entries

- ***Enjoying nature from a distance*** by Skylar N., Grade 4, American Samoa
- ***100 yards of Aloha*** by Koa S., Grade 3, Hawai'i
- ***Admire me from a distance*** by Lily Y., Grade 3, Hawai'i

Honorable Mention

Selina S., Victoria H., Minato T., Aleizah N., Brielle V., Rixey P., Raiden T., Royce A., Tiresa K.

GRADES 6-8
Winning Entries

- ***Whale watching*** by Asa P., Grade 8, Hawai'i
- ***Looking out for you*** by Fiona Z., Grade 7, CNMI
- ***Just agree to let them be*** by Bella T., Grade 6, Hawai'i

Honorable Mention

Isabella A., Kamara C., Aria G., Rylie G., Kaili H., Kianaonalani M., Gwanhun S., Beckett S., Sayema S., Caitlin Y.

GRADES 9-12
Winning Entries

- ***Sea Turtle*** by Mary C., Grade 9, American Samoa
- ***Protect the Wildlife by Watching from a Distance*** by Sophia W., Grade 11, CNMI
- ***Beauty comes from a distance*** by Esther W., Grade 11, CNMI

Honorable Mention

Joymer C., Kristen C., Maia C., Fei Fei L., Isdore N., Claire P ***(PR)***

VISITOR

From Page 1

of small gain in a continued challenging road ahead for the recovery of the Marianas tourism economy.

A majority of visitors in April arrived from South Korea, the Marianas' largest source market prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 4,251 visitors arriving. This compares to April 2021, when there were no visitors at all from South Korea.

The Marianas now has 12 flights operated by five airlines arriving weekly from Seoul and Busan. As non-vaccinated children under the age of 12 are exempted from returning quarantine in Korea, beginning June 1 this change will allow families to more conveniently travel to the Marianas on summer vacation and holidays.

The Marianas received 29 visitors from Japan in April 2022, compared to only two visitors in April 2021. With the easing of quarantine requirements and other pandemic-related restrictions for returning residents to Japan, the MVA is also working with major travel industry partners in Japan to develop a program to reboot the market with direct flights this summer. The program focuses on a media and travel agent familiarization group, a travel agent incentive program, press conferences and media interviews, sales calls, and consumer promotions designed to promote the Marianas as a destination of choice.

The Marianas also received 745 visitors from Guam, 420 visitors from U.S. and a combined 109 additional visitors from all other destinations in April. ***(MVA)***

MVA hosts student painting workshop on Rota

Twenty-seven eighth-graders joined the painting workshop organized on May 21, 2022, by the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota.

MVA

In celebration of Marianas Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority hosted a painting workshop for students on May 21, 2022, at the Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota.

Twenty-seven eighth-graders participated in the event conducted by local artist Linda Torres. The project aimed to acquaint students with painting fundaments that could be applied to island beautification projects.

"The inspiration behind this event was to use painting to open the minds of the students and let their creativity show," said MVA Rota trades technician David Atalig. "Painting lets you create your own masterpiece. We hope that the students take this lesson and apply it to life, understanding that they are the creators of their own destiny. In front of them is a blank canvas, and they have the power to make the most of every opportunity."

Students of Sinapalo Elementary School helped beautify the island with a cleanup at Chamorro Village on May 14, 2022. Students of Dr. Rita Inos Jr./Sr. High School also received a guided tour of historic sites on the island. ***(MVA)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
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Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 | www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ELECTRONIC GOLF CARTS
NMC IFB 22-0005

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of Two (2) Electronic Golf Carts Equipment for Saipan Campus.

The bid specifications and Scope of Work packet may be pick up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Monday, May 09, 2022 between the hours of 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Electronic packet, Anita Camacho email: anita.camacho@marianas.edu

Bid submission
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P,
As Terlaje Campus Saipan
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, June 10, 2022, ChST

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities- Disaster Grant Case Number 62-005-91982292.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP22-DCCA-CCLP-42200101

SUBMISSION DATE: June 23, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"TO UPDATE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS CHILD CARE LICENSING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE LICENSING PROGRAM OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1343 ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON **JUNE 13, 2022 10:00 A.M.** CONTRACTORS MAY REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE VIA PHONE-CALL IN. IF REQUESTING VIA PHONE-CALL IN, REQUEST MUST BE MADE VIA EMAIL TO gbsdccacclp@gmail.com AT LEAST 3-WORKDAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED CONFERENCE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. GORDON SALAS, PROGRAM SUPERVISOR**, VIA EMAIL TO gbsdccacclp@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FIVE (5) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR OT THE MADATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONVERENCE. ALL QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED DURING THE CONFERENCE. QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. No ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WILL BE ENTERTAINED AFTER THE PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Hafa Adai & Tirow!
In observance of Memorial Day,
our Oleai (Saipan), Rota, and Tinian stores will be closed on Monday, May 30. Regular store hours will resume on Tuesday, May 31.
Our Kada Dia Payment Center will remain open on Monday, May 30 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for payments.
For all inquiries, you can call our 24/7 Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4483, chat with us online at ite.net or send us a message on Instagram or Facebook.
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
IT&E

CGC certifies 28 in applied suicide intervention

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center certified 28 individuals in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training last May 12 and 13, 2022.

ASIST is an evidence-based suicide intervention training program that provides participants with the skills necessary to connect, understand, and assist persons who may have thoughts or are at risk for suicide. It provides personalized, life-assisting, first-aid intervention training that reinforces help-seeking behaviors for those at risk for suicide.

Since 2018, the CGC has certified 489 individuals in ASIST in the CNMI: 412 from Saipan and 77 from Rota. Plans to offer the training in Tinian are in progress.

"We want our community to know that suicide is a public health issue and that it's everyone's business," said CHCC CGC prevention specialist Queayla Sablan. "When we teach our community members how to conduct a suicide intervention, we build a more resilient community—a community better equipped to help residents who may be at risk of suicide."

The two-day workshop, held at the Pacific Islands Club, included participants from the CGC Crisis Counseling Program, CGC Behavioral Health Response Program, the CNMI Public School System, and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Fred Fatialofa, Queayla Sablan, and Daisy Villagomez-Bier from CGC facilitated the workshop. For more information on ASIST, visit www.livingworks.net, or call the CNMI Suicide Prevention Program at (670) 664-LIVE (5483).

If you or someone you know are feeling alone and uncertain of the way things are, reach out and call the CGC office at (670) 284-0843/0847 or 323-6560 for mental health support and coping skills. ***(PR)***

Participants from the Community Guidance Center's Crisis Counseling Program, CGC Behavioral Health Response Program, the CNMI Public School System, and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence were recently certified in suicide intervention skills.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CASH DEPOSITORY SERVICES

CPA-RFP-006-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from service providers to provide cash depository services for the CPA.

Proposals must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than **4:30 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2022**. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. One original and three copies of each proposal shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked as 'Confidential' and each envelope must include the RFP number on the outside. It is the sole responsibility of a proposer to submit its proposal or proposals in a timely manner.

A Proposal Package consisting of the Scope of Work and further details is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning May 09, 2022. There is no charge for the proposal package.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to chris.tenorio@cnmiports.com with copy to atudela@cnmiports.com . Deadline for questions and inquiries is 2:00 p.m. June 01, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

May 9, 2022
Date

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

If gun control won't work, at least take away gun makers' liability protection

With more than 300 million firearms in Americans' hands—enough for every man, woman and child to have one—it does no good anymore to rant and rave about gun control. The National Rifle Association owns enough members of Congress to block meaningful measures and is no doubt working this very minute to block any new legislation in response to the slaughter of 19 children in Uvalde, Texas.

The gun lobby—or, more accurately, the pro-death lobby—succeeds because it knows Americans have a ridiculously short attention span. The sense of outrage over Uvalde will last only slightly longer than the insincere moment of silence that the NRA will let its politicians observe before unleashing a new campaign to twist this tragedy into a victory for gun rights.

The bloodshed profiteers are, coincidentally, set to gather Friday not far away from Uvalde in Houston for the NRA's annual convention. There, former President Donald Trump will join presidential aspirants like Sen. Ted Cruz in a political competition to see who can bow lowest to kiss the feet of the gun gods.

They, like the NRA, know that Americans will soon forget this tragedy, just as they've put out of their minds the slaughter of 20 first-graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut and the killing of 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. They know that even the racist mass murder of 10 people in Buffalo, less than two weeks ago, already seems like a distant memory.

To his credit, Golden State Warriors Coach Steve Kerr refused to let the NRA win at the game of distraction. He used an NBA playoff news conference Tuesday not to talk about basketball but to focus loudly on the Uvalde slaughter. "When are we going to do something? …" Kerr said, shouting and pounding the table. "I'm tired of the moments of silence. Enough!"

He blamed Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell among 50 senators "who refuse to vote" on a House-passed background check bill, putting political interests ahead of measures to prevent future mass shootings. Even though the vast majority of Americans favor strengthened background checks, subservient politicians won't budge without NRA permission.

One thing that does get gun manufacturers' attention, however, is the single successful product-liability lawsuit brought by families of the Sandy Hook victims against gun maker Remington, which in February yielded a $74 million settlement. If Republicans don't want to impose better background checks or controls, then why not at least consider repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005?

Tobacco companies, once among the most powerful in politics, were brought to their knees once billion-dollar lawsuits forced them to account for the death their products wrought. It's time Congress stopped protecting gun makers and forced them to be held accountable for their products' deadly toll.

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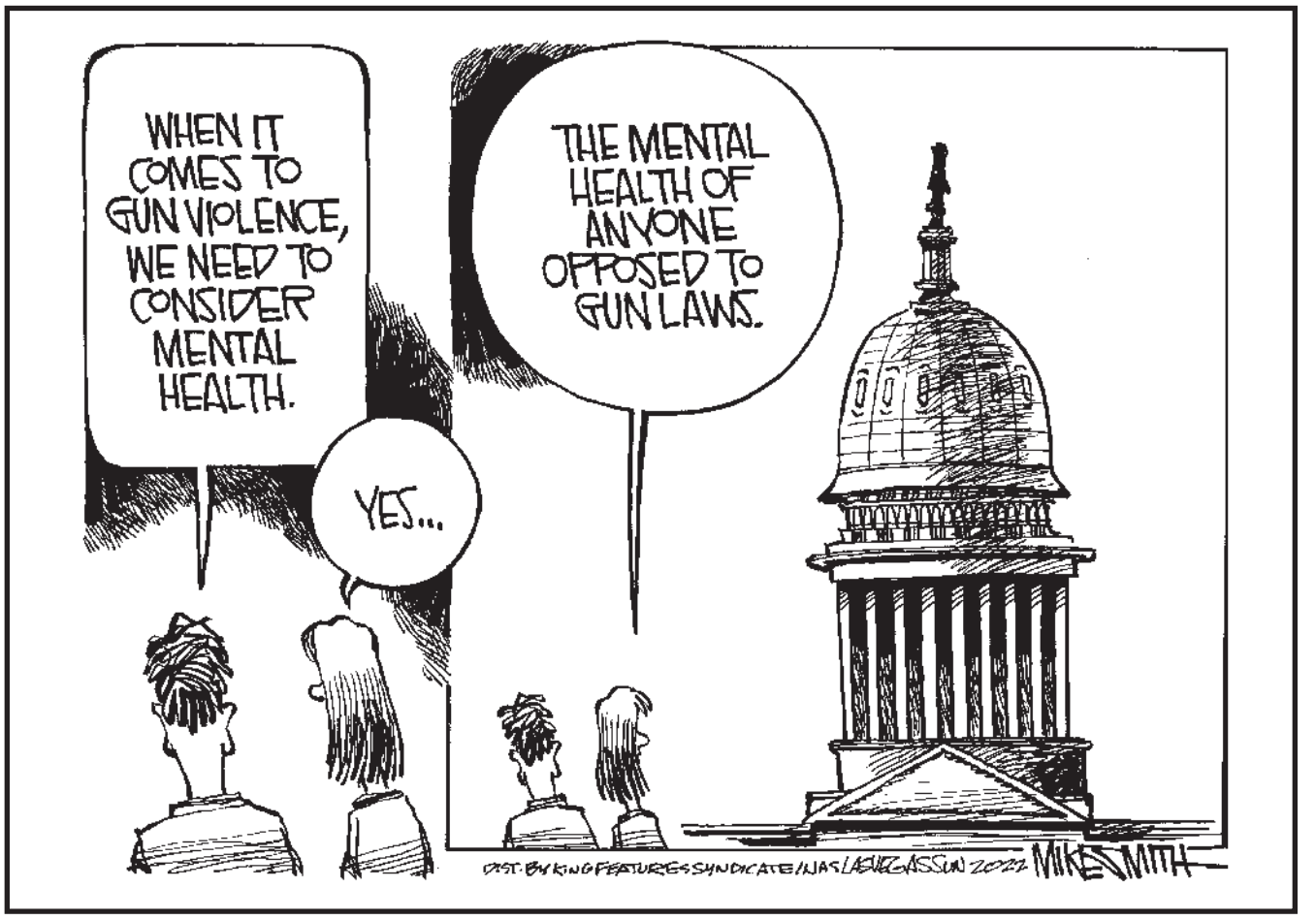

WHEN IT COMES TO GUN VIOLENCE, WE NEED TO CONSIDER MENTAL HEALTH.
YES...
THE MENTAL HEALTH OF ANYONE OPPOSED TO GUN LAWS.
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS LA TIMES ASSN 2022
MIKE SMITH

Seven days in May—saving America from within

"Seven Days in May," the epic 1960s novel and a film starring Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and Ava Gardner, was a fictional tale about right-wing Pentagon generals who tried to topple the U.S. government.

Seven Days in May, 2022, the epic tragedy starring us all, is the reality news that is now dominating news screens everywhere. You and I are feeling like we are trapped into watching a slo-mo version of heart-wrenching, mind-numbing scenes that just keep on looping.

We know the whole world is watching us in stunned disbelief. And sometimes it feels like we, too, are outside looking in. We see half of our nation's leaders willfully lying to us—and their followers pretend they don't know they are being lied to.

We suddenly have enemies whose evil isn't about committing willful action against us, but willful inaction—a fear of taking common-sense acts to save us from ourselves. Because their honest action may cost them the power—and that is what they crave most of all.

Today, our Seven Days in May 2022 tale actually begins with a context-setting preface from 2015: Texas' new governor, Greg Abbott, wanted to assure his supporters he was all about making Texas No. 1. On October 28, 2015, @GregAbbott tweeted:

"I'm EMBARRASSED: Texas #2 in nation for new gun purchases, behind CALIFORNIA. Let's pick up the pace Texans. @NRA."

Abbott led Texas to enact a series of laws that relaxed gun controls, including permitting Texans to carry firearms without permits or training. And lo, it came to pass: With 1.8 million gun purchases in 2020, Abbott's Texas became America's No. 1 state in gun sales.

Seven days in May 2022 takes place in the close-knit community of Uvalde, Texas, just an hour up the road from the Mexican border.

May 17: The day after his 18th birthday, Salvador Rolando Ramos entered a gun store in his hometown. Obeying all the relaxed federal, state and local laws that helped make Gov. Abbott's Texas No.1, Ramos legally bought an AR-15-style, military-looking semi-automatic rifle. Even though youths his age were legally three years short of being considered mature enough to legally buy a beer in Abbott's Texas No. 1.

May 18: Young Ramos returned to legally buy himself 375 rounds of ammunition for his birthday gun. There were no laws prohibiting this sale, nor even red computer flags questioning it in Abbott's Texas No.1.

May 19: Young Ramos returned to his gun store and legally bought another AR-15-style semi-automatic. Again, there were no restrictions or red computer flags questioning this repeat sale in Abbott's Texas No.1.

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

May 24: Seven days after buying his first birthday gun, young Ramos used it to shoot his grandmother in the face. He loaded his birthday guns and ammo into her pickup truck, drove toward Robb Elementary School, but crashed his grandma's truck into a culvert near the school. He reportedly fired shots at people across the street, walked around for 12 minutes – yet was able to enter the school without encountering police or even a school security guard. For one hour, he fired shots yet was allowed to remain in a school room with terrified students. By the time lawmen finally burst in and Ramos was killed, 19 children and two teachers were shot dead. Uvalde had become America's second worst school massacre.

Abbott later made two main points to reporters: (1) Ramos had no known psychiatric problem that could have prevented him from buying his guns; but (2) the real problem here was Texas's shortage of mental facilities. He never mentioned the failure of the limp gun laws of Abbott's Texas No.1.

There was one decade in America when this could not have happened. In 1994, sales of semi-automatics such as the AR-15-style rifle were banned during the Clinton years—and numbers of mass murders dropped sharply. But a decade later, President George W. Bush and his Republican allies allowed the ban to expire—and mass gun murder numbers increased sharply, ever since.

Republicans in Washington and where you live have tried doing nothing except lowering flags and pausing for moments of silence. Our children keep getting massacred. Finally we must return to our one other bold option: We must join the rest of the world's safer democracies by at last enacting rigorous gun control measures. Including reinstalling our ban on assault weapons—a control that significantly reduced gun massacres.

And that's where you come in. You must vote to oust officeholders who still insist on doing nothing but holding onto their seats while your children keep getting massacred.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Circumnavigating Saipan captures essence of traditional navigation

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

For those of us who previously served in the U.S. military, our job has been to directly engage in a variety of capacities, work that contributes to the overall protection and security of the United States and its interests worldwide. This line of work requires all kinds of substantial resources and the need to work with different organizations and people to accomplish the stated goals.

The national security and military fields, however, are not unique when it comes to working toward a common goal or mission set because similar principles apply to the work performed on the development of the ancient maritime practices and industry that is resurfacing after being dormant in the Marianas Islands for centuries.

The recent circumnavigation of Saipan using vessel designs of ancient Chamorro canoes provides one example of how unity of effort, having a clear mission, and working from the heart can transform and resurrect our ancient canoe building practices.

When individuals demonstrate teamwork, transformation occurs

As most of us already are aware, four Chamorro canoes recently embarked and completed a historic maritime journey circumnavigating Saipan. Four master navigators of Carolinian descent led the way. The idea to conduct a circumnavigation was reportedly made by master navigator Cecilio Raikiulipiy, who also according to 500 Sails, was a co-author of the *Lakayak Sailing Manual* and instructor for the selected crew.

Principal leaders and pathbreakers such as Pete and Emma Perez from 500 Sails, along with their paid staff and volunteers, provided logistical, communications, community, and facility support throughout the preparation and actual participation stages of the circumnavigation trip. Mario Borja, who has and continues to be instrumental in engineering, designing, and constructing Chamorro canoes, actively contributed to the circumnavigation effort in a variety of ways.

The overnight voyage was executed using the following four named canoes: *Neni, Auntie Oba, Richard Seman,* and *Anaguan*. Master navigators involved (forgive me for any name misspellings) were Mau Piailug's son, Sesario Sewralur, Antonio Piailug, the brother of Sesario Sewralur, nephew Cecilio Raikiulipiy, and Mariano Bonito.

How working together translates into Pacific Island security at the local level

This unity of effort to resurrect and demonstrate Chamorro and Carolinian ingenuity, creativity, hard work, and passion represents the pursuit of excellence stemming from the Pacific Islander talents rooted in the deepest parts of the Deep Blue Ocean continent. Several aspects make this endeavor most consequential by many units of measure. One measure is that our ancient maritime traditions and practices, previously stripped from our Chamorro people several centuries ago through European exploitation and colonization, have been rebirthed.

The confluence of Chamorros from Guam and the Northern Marianas interested in maritime adventures, leadership, and mentorship from Carolinian master navigators, interested community members, and 500 Sails, represents a world-class, uncommon, and most unique shared sense of the pursuit of enduring excellence in union with the Deep Blue Pacific Sea. This unity of effort is tied to our ancient Pacific Islander historical narrative that dates back several thousands of years. It is a tradition we own as Chamorros, Carolinians and Pacific Islanders, because these Mariana islands are our collective homes.

Collaboration was also found through the 500 Sails Cultural Maritime Training Center's Traditional Navigation Track program. The center's ability to operate is due in part to the support it has received from the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Funding was provided by the Administration for Native Americans' Social and Economic Development Strategies, Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc. - Canoe Federation, the CNMI Office of Indigenous Affairs and private sector supporter IT&E.

Real-time challenges at sea

As many are aware and as 500 Sales can attest, during the first leg to Unai Bapot (Laulau), three of the canoes needed a tow by the escort boat to ensure they arrived before dark. The crew on these canoes got to learn about how to get towed, including where to connect lines so the canoe was as stable as possible, what knots to use to ensure a proper tow was possible, and where to put the weight on the canoe. One canoe was able to sail completely around Saipan without assistance. No one was towed during the second leg, from Unai Bapot to the Guma Sakman in Susupe.

Pacific Islander leadership securing Deep Blue Continent island security for generations to come through ocean-based transportation knowledge

Traditional navigation requires a deep understanding of significant star formations, being intimate with weather and swell patterns, and understanding all phases of the moon and tides.

This represents a deep security, one not predicated on a superpower adversary or nation state enemy, but rather a security rooted in Deep Blue Ocean continental knowledge, a deep-seated sense of Pacific Islander unity of effort and camaraderie and, most of all, a shared maritime-based love of a very rare and geographically unique part of the world.

Concluding thoughts

World-class traditional navigation security is found on Saipan Island. Saipan is home to several of the world's most experienced master ocean navigators. World-class foresight and persistence to actualize our ancient Pacific Islander culture has been and continues to be found in the Northern Marianas Islands.

The significance of this maritime effort through circumnavigation can also be seen from the standpoint that at any moment a crew member or navigator could have died during the trek. Thus, the execution and completion of this undertaking represents a security deeply embedded in our hearts, minds, and souls of the families of those of Carolinian and Chamorro ancestry.

The gun debate needs to break old patterns

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is the editor of* National Review *and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.*

The mass murder of children in Uvalde, Texas, coming just 10 days after the mass murder of shoppers in Buffalo, New York, moved former Sen. Bill Frist—who was the majority leader of a Republican Senate when President George W. Bush was in the White House—to issue a statement on guns: "We can find ways to preserve the Second Amendment while also safeguarding the lives of our children. ... The time to act is now."

The impulse to overcome long-standing divisions to find solutions is laudable. But the assumption behind Frist's comment, and much of the rest of the national discussion of gun crime, is that progress is mostly a matter of getting enough Americans to have the right sentiments.

There are three deep problems that all who share those sentiments have not been able to get past.

First: The mainstream gun control agenda of the last 30 years would have negligible effects even if enacted. When the Justice Department looked at the assault weapons ban in effect from 1995 to 2004, it concluded that a renewal's "effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement." A 2020 review of the research on assault weapons bans by the Rand Corporation found that even the effects on mass shootings were "inconclusive." Expanding background checks would achieve little, either: Most mass shooters have already passed them.

Second: Most people understand that these policies would have very small effects, and it makes support for them soft. Advocates of expanded background checks often cite polls that show very large majorities in favor of them; some polls also show majority support for a ban on assault weapons. But polls also find considerable skepticism about the effects of such laws. In 2017, Gallup asked whether "new gun control laws," if passed, would reduce the number of mass shootings. A 42% plurality said they wouldn't, while another 16% said they would matter "a little."

Numbers like that one help to explain why opponents of new restrictions can prevail even when they are outnumbered politically. The opponents, who say the new laws would be intolerable restrictions on their rights or would lead to them, are intensely motivated. A lot of supporters are lukewarm. And that in turn helps explain why even in a Democratic-run Senate in 2013, a new assault weapons ban garnered only 40 votes.

Third: More ambitious gun control proposals could have a substantial effect, but are nonstarters. A rigorously enforced ban on the civilian possession of handguns would slash gun violence. But the latest poll has only 19% of the public backing that idea. Support for it has been falling for 60 years. The Second Amendment of the Constitution bars it. And even if could somehow be enacted anyway, it would be impossible to enforce effectively in a country estimated to have nearly 400 million firearms—a country, moreover, where nearly half of adults live in a household with guns.

None of this means that Americans should give up and accept the current levels of bloodshed. But it does suggest that there's a need to break out of the standard gun control debates.

In particular, it suggests that the authorities need better ways to identify individuals who pose a serious threat of lethal violence and to act on that assessment. "Red-flag laws," which allow the disarmament of dangerous individuals, should be explored, although it remains to be seen whether they can make a difference while respecting civil liberties. State governments should also institute a duty to report serious threats: It's remarkable how many mass shooters offered warning signs before committing their atrocities.

Better enforcement of existing laws, such as those against proxy purchases of guns for those who can't legally own them, and against falsifying information on background checks, might also help reduce gun violence generally (if not mass shootings specifically) without adding burdens to law-abiding gun owners and thus yielding the usual political impasse.

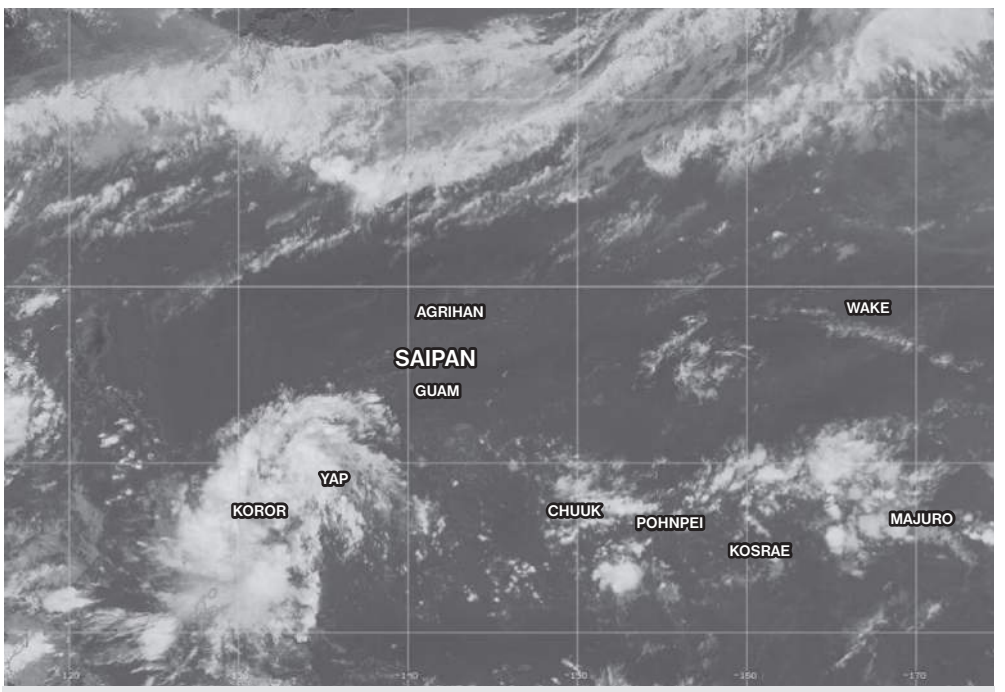
Such policies do not promise advocates the catharsis of lashing out at political and cultural enemies, which is one of the draws of ritualized gun arguments. But those arguments have led nowhere. Let's act now, yes, but only after we think.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDA	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy, with Isolated showers. East southeast wind 6 to 10 mph.	. Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers East wind around 7 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly sunny,	Mostly cloudy, with A chance of showers.
91º 78º	88º 71º	88º 77º	88º 78º	88º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:7:20 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate east winds prevail in the Marianas. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are approximately 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	AM Thunderstorms	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	27 / 24 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Tuesday	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Wednesday	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Thursday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Friday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	05:18	18:33 PM	-
Tuesday	06:02	19:26 PM	-
Wednesday	06:49	20:18 PM	-
Thursday	07:39	21:09 PM	-
Friday	08:30	21:57 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Thunderstorms	19 / 14 °F
Beijing	Sunny	32 / 15 °F
Hong Kong	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	26 / 22 °F
London	PM Showers	16 / 9 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	24 / 14 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	34 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Rain	12 / 8 °F
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	30 / 22 °F
Osaka	PM Showers	27 / 20 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	19 / 10 °F
Busan	AM Light Rain	22 / 16 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	28 / 17 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	31 / 19 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	20 / 10 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	26 / 13 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	28 / 18 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	33 / 21 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:39 AM	Low Tide	1.32
06:34 AM	High Tide	1.95
1:58 PM	Low Tide	-0.03
9:05 PM	High Tide	1.93

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 16, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Monday & Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Monday & Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CUC closed today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be closed today, May 30, 2022, in observance of Memorial Day. ***(PR)***

Thaiphi Austria named to Trine U's Dean's List

ANGOLA, IN—Thaiphi Austria of Saipan, a Trine University student, earned Dean's List recognition for the spring 2022 term. Austria is majoring in civil engineering.

To earn Dean's List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.500-3.749. ***(PR)***

Power service interruptions on June 2 and 3

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on June 2 and 3, 2022.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022

■ Outage Time: 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

❑ Area(s) Affected: Orchid Street in Garapan. See map for red highlighted areas.

■ Momentary Outage Time: 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

❑ Area(s) Affected: Beach Road Garapan.

■ Purpose: To replace an existing wood primary power pole to concrete pole along Orchid Street in Garapan.

■ Circuit: Feeder 3

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: 54 Lift Station, however, no areas will be affected.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

■ Outage Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

❑ Area(s) Affected: Navy Hill.

■ Purpose: To replace rotted primary wood power pole along Navy Hill Road in Navy I

■ Circuit: Feeder I

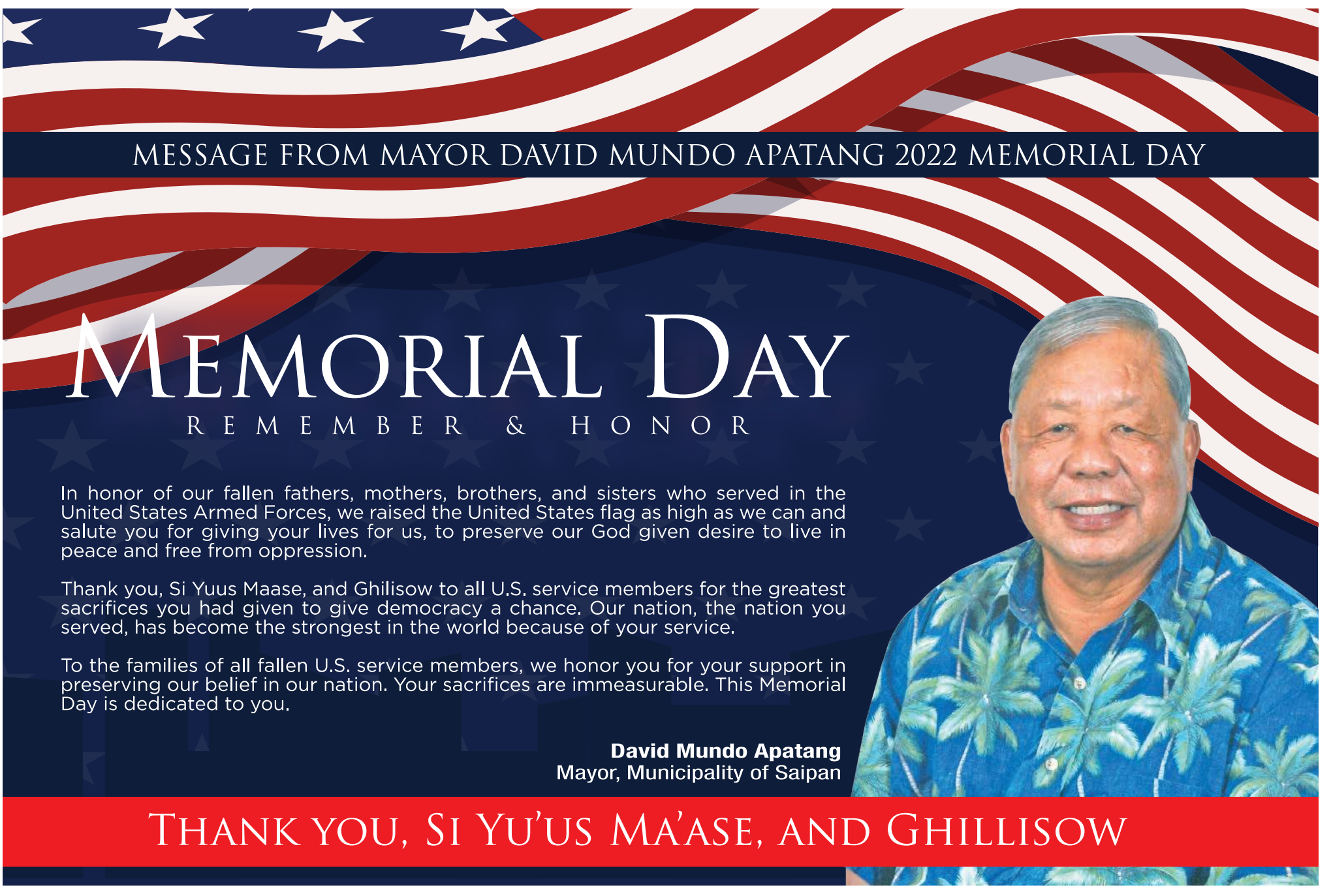
■ Water Well(s) Affected: Calhoun Well 1 and Calhoun Well 5. No areas affected.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://wvvw.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

BankGuam Holding declares dividends

BankGuam Holding Company announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 4.97% Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, May 23, 2022. The dividends will be paid on June 30, 2022, to shareholders of record as of June 15, 2022. ***(PR)***


MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DAVID MUNDO APATANG 2022 MEMORIAL DAY
MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER & HONOR
In honor of our fallen fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters who served in the United States Armed Forces, we raised the United States flag as high as we can and salute you for giving your lives for us, to preserve our God given desire to live in peace and free from oppression.
Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, and Ghilisow to all U.S. service members for the greatest sacrifices you had given to give democracy a chance. Our nation, the nation you served, has become the strongest in the world because of your service.
To the families of all fallen U.S. service members, we honor you for your support in preserving our belief in our nation. Your sacrifices are immeasurable. This Memorial Day is dedicated to you.
David Mundo Apatang
Mayor, Municipality of Saipan
THANK YOU, SI YU'US MA'ASE, AND GHILLISOW

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-014

SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE II
(ROYAL PALM AVENUE AND GINGER AVENUE – GARAPAN)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-014, Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan)**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding if the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC's Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC's Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

EPA grants aim for safe beach recreation

HONOLULU—The CNMI can expect to receive $303,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of grant awards of up to $10 million that will be given away to 38 states, territories, and Tribes to develop and implement beach monitoring and notification programs nationwide.

The Pacific Island territories, Hawaii, and California will receive a total of $1.76 million to support beach monitoring activities, including efforts with an environmental justice focus.

Over 51% of EPA Region 9's 2022 Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act grant funding will be awarded to American Samoa ($302,000), Guam ($303,000), and the CNMI ($303,000), filling a critical need to provide safe beach recreation in disadvantaged coastal communities.

In addition, Hawaii will receive $324,000 in funding while $525,000 will go to California.

"This investment advances EPA's commitment to environmental justice by supporting our disadvantaged communities along the coastlines of the Pacific Southwest, from Guam to California. Continued monitoring of our beaches helps us to provide safe and equitable beach access to our Pacific Island, Hawaii and California coastal communities," said EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Martha Guzman. "This funding supports local public health agencies' ability to give communities peace of mind when taking their families to the beach."

Since 2002 EPA's partners have used nearly $206 million in BEACH Act grants to protect beachgoers by monitoring beaches for bacteria, maintaining and operating public notification systems, identifying local pollution sources, and reporting results to EPA.

This funding supports the President's Justice40 initiative, with the goal of delivering 40% of overall benefits of relevant federal investments to communities with environmental justice concerns. The beach water data collected directly helps EPA identify where water quality problems may be and recommend priorities for enforcement, wastewater infrastructure projects, and closures of illegal large capacity cesspools.

Under the BEACH Act, EPA awards grants to eligible state, territorial and Tribal applicants to help them and their local government partners monitor water quality at coastal beaches. When bacteria levels are too high for safe swimming, these agencies notify the public by posting beach warnings or closing the beach.

EPA's most recent Beach Report found that beaches on U.S. coasts and along the Great Lakes were open and safe for swimming 92 percent of the time in 2020. Check with your local public health authority on water conditions when making plans to go the beach.

For information on grants under the BEACH Act, grant guidance and contact information for local beach programs, see: https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/beach-grants.

To check on the latest closings and advisories at specific beaches, contact your local beach program.

To view data on water quality monitoring results and public notifications that have been reported to EPA over the years, see EPA's national beach database, BEACON. ***(PR)***

Memorial Day is the day that's set aside to remember with
gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom.
CELEBRATING
MEMORIAL
DAY
50
Anniversary
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Atalig disappointed with administration's budget proposal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Mayor says he is not aware of Volume 4 budget submission

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig said Thursday that he and the directors of the Rota Mayor's Office are disappointed with the administration's budget request for Rota for fiscal year 2023, specifically for deleting their budget for "all others."

At the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee's budget hearing for the Rota Mayor's Office held at the Centron Hustisia on Rota, Atalig urged the committee to help them restore their budget.

The mayor said that when he asked about the matter, he was told that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will be submitting to the House an amendment to the budget proposal on July 1.

"So I'm hoping that by then, our budget for 'all others' can be restored," he said. He did not specify the amount of his budget request for "all others."

Atalig said all they did with their 2023 budget request was mirror their request for the 2022 budget. "We didn't ask for more or less, [but] just the same. But as you probably can see, 'all others' is not there. So like I said at the outset, we're very upset. So I don't know what else to say. But it's not good for Rota," the mayor said.

House and Ways Committee chair Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) stated that upon reviewing the governor's proposal, the mayor was correct in saying that the governor's proposal mainly protected the personnel.

"And so what we're here to do is kind of understand what are some of the operational needs that we can try to support and understand. What are the highest costs and expenditure and what would that mean to the agencies," Manglona said.

He said Atalig has submitted a budget request of $3.1 million: about $2.7 million or $2.8 million for personnel and the rest for operations and utilities at $225,000.

He said from their understanding the utilities will be shouldered by the administration.

Manglona said that Atalig had requested for 86 personnel in his budget submission, but the governor had proposed 110 personnel, "so that's one of the main areas that we would like to address and understand. Why there's this huge gap between the mayor's submission as well as the governor's proposal?" Manglona said.

Atalig

Manglona

Atalig told the committee that they also received the administration's submission to the Legislature with respect to the budget for personnel, which according to him contains some errors. He said they requested what the municipality employees have been earning, but the administration's submission show that they'd now be receiving less.

"If we were to approve that budget, am I [will have to] go back to the employees and say, 'I'm sorry you used to work for $20 an hour, for example, and now…it's only $15.' I mean, what is that for? I don't understand that," Atalig said.

He said the biggest problem with the submission of budget is the personnel and for the "all others."

Manglona, however, explained that there are two budget submissions by the administration—Volume 1 and 4. Manglona asked the mayor if he was able to review Volume 4, which is the American Rescue Plan Act funding that covers the shortfall for what is seen in the general fund budget.

The chair said the general fund budget revert employees back to the reduced hours and furloughs that the CNMI experienced last fiscal year.

"So the Volume 4 fills in that additional 16 hours or 20% as well as for all employees that were furloughed," Manglona said.

Atalig said he is not aware of Volume 4.

Manglona said Volume 4 should take care of the salary difference between what is seen in the general fund Volume 1.

"But the ARPA only covers the shortfall in personnel. It's still the same with operations where there's none for the municipality," he added.

In response to Manglona's inquiry on the number of employees, Atalig said for the current fiscal year, overall under his office, they have 60 employees funded by ARPA and the remaining 86 being funded by the general fund.

Manglona noted that Atalig requested a budget submission for 86 employees for fiscal year 2023, but the governor proposed 110.

Atalig said to him it's good that the governor gives them full time employees.

"But it's not good that he didn't give us the funds. The reason I requested 86 is because those are the people that are now working. So maybe I don't know, later on he might find some funds and give it to me," the mayor said.

Fire engulfs vehicle behind Club 88

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel suppress a fire that engulfed a van behind Club 88 last Monday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services is seeking the community's help in getting information on the fire that had engulfed a van behind Club 88 last Monday.

According to DFEMS spokesperson Robert Mojica, a male caller contacted 911 last Monday, May 23, at about 12:22pm to report a vehicle fire in Garapan behind Club 88. Engine - 2 responded to the location and arrived at the scene at around 12:26pm. They found a white van on fire in the parking garage behind Club 88.

DFEMS investigators Tony Santos stated that the cause of the fire has yet to be determined and so it remains under investigation. DFEMS' Joseph Lifoifoi has also been assigned to the scene.

The Division of Prevention and Arson Investigation is requesting the public's assistance if they have any information about the vehicle fire to call (670) 664-9178.

According to Santos, when he arrived on the scene, he observed a white van bearing the license plate AV 060 parked on the southern side of Saipan Ocean View Hotel Parking Garage.

The investigator said a bed mattress was found on top of the vehicle's hood. Further investigation revealed that the fire was first seen on the mattress. The vehicle sustained severe heat and smoke damage in the engine compartment and interior, Santos said, but did not spread to anywhere else. The structure above the parking garage did sustain moderate damage due to severe heat and smoke.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Way to go, Nirvana Wolf! Congratulations on your Music Festival Concert! Greetings come from your Saipan Music & Dance family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AVAILABILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM
March 31, 2022

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program made possible through the US Department of Treasury. The CNMI was allocated a total amount of ***$4,158,268*** in HAF funds, of which approximately 10% or $400,000 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 90% or $3,758,268, will be used for the following types of assistance for CNMI ***homeowners:***

1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to $25,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
2) Mortgage payment assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to $20,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to $1,716 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
4) Utilities/Broadband Assistance:
   a. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $6,000 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquencies in utility payments)
   b. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $1,500 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future utility payments)
   c. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $600 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband service payments)
   d. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $150 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future broadband service payments

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Homeowners:
- Must be a resident of the CNMI
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least month delinquent) (for mortgage delinquency assistance)
- For those seeking insurance arrears assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

Income Limits

FY 2021 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S. Median Income	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S. Median Income	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$85,050	$90,500

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhcgov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at (670) 234-6866

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

How to help someone with a gunshot wound

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With gun violence on the rise in the United States, the odds of being at the scene of a shooting are increasing.

By EMILY MULLIN
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH—When police officers and paramedics arrived at the scene of the Pittsburgh shooting in the early hours of April 17, they rushed to transport the injured to the hospital.

Time is of the essence in such situations. It can take as little as five minutes for a person with a life-threatening injury to bleed to death. Much like CPR, basic bleeding control techniques could help save a life in the event of an emergency.

"If someone has life-threatening bleeding and they have minutes to live, you can't rely on medical personnel," said Dr. Matthew Neal, a trauma surgeon at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center who cared for many of the critically wounded victims of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in 2018. "Bystanders are going to be the first people there."

Dr. Neal is an advocate of Stop the Bleed, an effort that teaches people first aid skills for controlling bleeding. It was introduced in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012, which killed 26 people.

With gun violence on the rise in the United States, the odds of being at the scene of a shooting are increasing. But the techniques also apply to other scenarios that can cause significant bleeding, such as car accidents.

Alert authorities

The first thing to do when a shooting or serious accident occurs is to alert the authorities as soon as possible.

"It's really easy in a chaotic scenario to think that everyone else has done it," said Dr. Allan Philp, head of trauma at Allegheny Health Network, who treated the North Side shooting victims. "But you want to make sure that someone has actually called 911 so that professional help can arrive as quickly as possible."

He emphasized the "run, hide, fight" approach in an active shooter situation. Flee the area if you can and call 911 once you're safe. If you can't run, get out of the shooter's view and remain quiet. As a last resort, and only if you're in immediate danger, try to stop the shooter.

Apply pressure

Ensure your own safety first before attempting to help someone who's wounded. Regardless of what part of the body is injured, the most basic tactic to stop bleeding is to apply firm, direct pressure on the wound—and not just with one hand, said Dr. Neal. Use a towel or T-shirt to tamp the bleeding if gauze isn't available.

"Hold two hands together, lock your elbows and put all of your weight onto the wound to try to stop that bleeding," he said. Though it seems simple, he said this can be challenging because people think they might further hurt the person who's injured.

"If it's truly life-threatening bleeding, standing by and waiting is not enough," he said. "You may have to hurt in order to help."

Keep applying pressure until the bleeding has subsided. If the bleeding hasn't stopped, that's a sign that you should apply more pressure, he said. While it may be physically painful for the wounded person, you're unlikely to cause an injury just by applying pressure. When medics arrive at the scene, they'll administer pain medication to those injured.

Bystanders may also be squeamish about coming into contact with someone else's blood, but it is not dangerous unless you have open wounds yourself. Dr. Neal said there's little risk of getting a blood-borne illness, such as hepatitis or HIV, from someone else if your skin is intact.

Use a tourniquet

For injuries that occur to the arms or the legs, a tourniquet can be very effective at stopping bleeding.

"A tourniquet stops blood flow to the limb and it squeezes the blood vessels so that it eliminates blood flow to the area where the wound is," said Dr. Neal.

The goal is to place it above the wound, as high up on the arm or leg as possible. It can be placed on top of clothing but should be at least a few inches from the wound. A tourniquet should not be applied over a joint.

To use a tourniquet, wrap it tightly around the limb and tighten it as much as possible. Then, twist the windlass rod in one direction to increase pressure and secure the rod so it doesn't come undone. A tourniquet is likely to be painful, but it can help stop life-threatening bleeding. Leave the tourniquet on until medical personnel arrive.

Through Western Pennsylvania's Stop the Bleed Initiative, UPMC has placed tourniquets in many schools across the region and outfitted police officers with them. Tourniquets are often included in trauma first aid kits and can also be purchased online.

But they're not readily available everywhere. In those cases, Dr. Philp advised against making an improvised one. They're usually not effective, and every minute counts when someone is bleeding. He said you could lose precious time looking for the materials to make one.

"That's three, four or five minutes of time that's better spent just holding pressure," he said.

Eating for your genes

ON NUTRITION

By BARBARA INTERMILL
Monterey Herald

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating. Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

In response to a recent column where I mentioned how genetic research is beginning to show us how our DNA may influence our dietary needs, reader Ann F sent me a slew of questions:

"Could race, hair color, eye color, ancestry help you choose the best diet? What about your gender? If you do have DNA information, how much would you be able to learn about your optimal nutrition?

And I wonder if food preferences are DNA-related, in some way. I try to have a healthy diet, but if I learned that I'd be better off with peanut butter sandwiches and not much else, day in, day out, that would sound great to me. (If I remember correctly, you might feel much that way about some New Mexico specialties.) Thanks."

Dear Ann,

Pretty much everything about you—including your susceptibility to some diseases—is determined by what you inherited from your parents. Even your preference for peanut butter sandwiches, and mine for New Mexican food, are at least partially influenced by our genetics, researchers say.

And yes, because males and females have differing body types and functions, our nutritional needs do vary. Men generally require more protein and women of childbearing age need more iron, for example.

There are two areas of study on this topic. One is called nutrigenomics, which looks at how diet affects the "expression" of our individual genetic code. For example, my dad developed Type 2 diabetes late in his life. Since we know the condition is linked to family history, there's a good chance I inherited a tendency for diabetes as well.

What is fascinating, say scientists, is my lifestyle, including how I eat, can influence if that gene may turn on to diabetes or stay off. (So far, it's off.)

On the flip side is an emerging field of research called nutrigenetics, which delves into how one's individual genetic code affects how we respond to certain components in food. These discoveries have spawned personalized nutrition programs based on DNA results.

And while there are companies that will map your nutritional needs based on your genetics, please note this area of nutrition is still in its infancy and not standardized by any means.

That said, I was offered to submit my saliva for evaluation by Genopalate, one such company with a great resume of nutrition professionals and researchers. And I must say I was intrigued with the results.

Among other details, my report found that my "genotype" is best suited to a diet high in carbohydrate foods and a moderate intake of dietary fiber. I also need a high normal amount of zinc, vitamin D and omega-3 fats in my diet. And apparently my body breaks down caffeine fast but alcohol slow—a reminder that "genetics loads the gun, but lifestyle pulls the trigger."

How better ventilation can help 'COVID-proof' your home

By LIZ SZABO
KAISER HEALTH NEWS

For two years, you beat the odds. You masked, kept your distance, got your shots.

Now, despite those efforts, you, your child, or someone else in your home has come down with COVID-19. And the last thing you want is for the virus to spread to everyone in the family or household. But how do you prevent it from circulating when you live in close quarters?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends isolating COVID patients for at least five days, preferably in a separate room with access to their own bathroom, as well as diligent mask-wearing for both patient and caregiver. But for many families, those aren't easy options. Not everyone has an extra bedroom to spare, let alone a free bathroom. Young children should not be left alone, and the youngest can't tolerate masks.

"For parents of a young child, it's pretty difficult not to be exposed," said Dr. Preeti Malani, chief health officer at the University of Michigan. "You have to work back from the perfect to the possible and manage your risk the best you can."

But take heart. Scientists say there is still a lot people can do to protect their families, chief among them improving ventilation and filtration of the air.

"Ventilation matters a lot," said Dr. Amy Barczak, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. "If you're taking care of someone at home, it's really important to maximize all the interventions that work."

To understand why good ventilation can make a difference, it helps to understand how the novel coronavirus spreads. Scientists have learned a lot in two years about its infectious mechanisms.

Viral particles float through the air like invisible secondhand smoke, diffusing as they travel. Outside the home, viruses are quickly dispersed by the wind. Inside, germs can build up, like clouds of thick cigarette smoke, increasing the risk of inhaling the virus.

Life & Style

At long last, Depp jurors hear closings, begin deliberations

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—After a six-week trial in which Johnny Depp and Amber Heard tore into each other over the nasty details of their short marriage, both sides told a jury the exact same thing Friday—they want their lives back.

Heard "ruined his life by falsely telling the world she was a survivor of domestic abuse at the hands of Mr. Depp," Depp lawyer Camille Vasquez told the jury in closing arguments in his libel trial against his ex-wife.

Heard's lawyers, meanwhile, said Depp ruined Heard's life by launching a smear campaign against her when she divorced him and publicly accused him of assault in 2016.

Depp

"In Mr. Depp's world, you don't leave Mr. Depp," said Heard's lawyer, J. Benjamin Rottenborn. "If you do, he will start a campaign of global humiliation against you."

Depp is hoping the trial will help restore his reputation, though it has turned into a spectacle of a vicious marriage, with broadcast cameras in the courtroom capturing every twist to an increasingly rapt audience as fans weighed in on social media and lined up overnight for coveted courtroom seats.

"This case for Mr. Depp has never been about money," said Depp lawyer Benjamin Chew. "It is about Mr. Depp's reputation and freeing him from the prison in which he has lived for the last six years."

Heard

Depp is suing Heard for $50 million in Virginia's Fairfax County Circuit Court over a 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers say he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

Heard filed a $100 million counterclaim against the former "Pirates of the Caribbean" star after his lawyer called her allegations a hoax. Though the counterclaim has received less attention at the trial, Heard lawyer Elaine Bredehoft said it provides an avenue for the jury to compensate Heard for the abuse Depp inflicted on her even after they split by orchestrating a smear campaign.

Ellen DeGeneres ends daytime show with plea for compassion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres brought her nearly two-decade daytime talk show to an end Thursday with a celebrity lovefest and a forceful assertion of her achievement as a gay woman daring to be herself.

DeGeneres and guests Jennifer Aniston, Billie Eilish and Pink shared memories and affection as "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" concluded its Emmy-winning, 3,200-plus episode run that began in September 2003.

"Twenty years ago, when we were trying to sell the show, no one thought that this would work. Not because it was a different kind of show, but because I was different," DeGeneres said of the pushback from TV stations.

DeGenere

When the syndicated show went on the air, she was prevented from saying the word "gay" or even the pronoun "we," DeGeneres said, since the latter would imply she had a partner. She didn't specify who imposed the ban.

"Sure couldn't say wife, and that's because it wasn't legal for gay people to get married—and now I say 'wife' all the time," DeGeneres added, with a touch of defiance, as actor Portia de Rossi watched from the studio audience. They wed in 2008.

The host, who became known for encouraging her audience to join her in impromptu dances, shared some last moves with her sidekick and DJ, Stephen "tWitch" Boss, to the tune "Best of My Love."

The dancer-choreographer saluted DeGeneres as someone who inspires others because she has "the courage to step out and be your authentic self."

'Triangle of Sadness' wins Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Fest

CANNES, France (AP)—Swedish director Ruben Ostlund's class warfare comedy "Triangle of Sadness" won the Palme d'Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, giving Ostlund one of cinema's most prestigious prizes for the second time.

Ostlund, whose art-world send-up "The Square" took the Palme in 2017, pulled off the rare feat of winning Cannes' top award for back-to-back films. "Triangle of Sadness," featuring Woody Harrelson as a Marxist yacht captain and a climactic scene with rampant vomiting, pushes the satire even further.

"We wanted after the screening (for people) to go out together and have something to talk about," said Ostlund. "All of us agree that the unique thing with cinema is that we're watching together. So we have to save something to talk about but we should also have fun and be entertained."

Kevin Spacey to face 4 sex assault charges in Britain

LONDON (AP)—British prosecutors said Thursday they had authorized police to charge actor Kevin Spacey with four counts of sexual assault against three men, an announcement that came as the actor was in court in New York testifying in a different case.

Spacey

The Crown Prosecution Service said it had "authorized criminal charges" on the four sex assault counts and one of "causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent."

The alleged incidents took place in London between March 2005 and August 2008, and one in western England in April 2013. The alleged victims are now in their 30s and 40s.

Rosemary Ainslie, head of the service's Special Crime Division, said the charges followed a review of evidence gathered by London's Metropolitan Police.

Prosecutors initially said Spacey had been charged. However, they later clarified that charges had been authorized, but the formal charging by police had not yet taken place.

The authorization to charge means criminal proceedings against Spacey are underway. The police force said Spacey—who is not currently in Britain—"will be formally charged at a later date."

If Spacey does not return to Britain to face the charges, prosecutors could seek to start extradition proceedings.

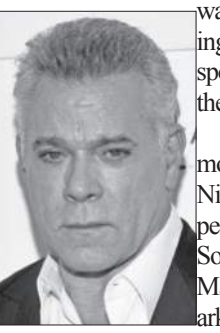
Ray Liotta, 'Goodfellas' and 'Field of Dreams' star, dies

By LINDSEY BAHR and MARTIN ADAMES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ray Liotta, the blue-eyed actor best known for playing mobster Henry Hill in "Goodfellas" and baseball player Shoeless Joe Jackson in "Field of Dreams," has died. He was 67.

Liotta's publicist, Jen Allen, said he was in the Dominican Republic shooting a new movie and didn't wake up Thursday morning. Police in the Dominican Republic said they received a call just before 6 a.m. Thursday at a hotel where Liotta was staying with his fiancee and found the actor dead.

Robert De Niro, who co-starred with Liotta in "Goodfellas," said in an emailed statement that he was saddened by Liotta's passing. "He is way too way young to have left us," De Niro said.


Liotta

Another "Goodfellas" star, Lorraine Bracco, who played Henry's wife Karen Hill, tweeted Thursday that she could be "anywhere in the world & people will come up & tell me their favorite movie is Goodfellas. Then they always ask what was the best part of making that movie. My response has always been the same…Ray Liotta."

Liotta was also mourned by Alessandro Nivola, who recently appeared with him in "The Sopranos" prequel "The Many Saints of Newark," and by the film's writer and producer David Chase. Nivola called Liotta "dangerous, unpredictable, hilarious, and generous with his praise for other actors." Chase said in a statement that "We all felt we lucked out having him on that movie."

DNA testing could reveal decadeslong family

DEAR ABBY: In my junior year of high school, my girlfriend got pregnant. We married and had a son. Although our marriage was very rocky, two years later we had a daughter. I knew from the beginning she was not my biological child because of her blood type, but I loved her all the same. I never told my daughter or my ex-wife (now deceased) what I knew. Four years after her birth we divorced, and I retained custody of my two children.

I later remarried and had one more child. Fifty years have now passed. With DNA testing being so prevalent, I'm at a loss. Most of my family (my parents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren) have been tested and show up linked to me.

My daughter, her children and grandchildren do not show up anywhere on my DNA chart. They live 2,000 miles away, but we communicate weekly. I am sure that she and some of her family have been tested and "suspect" but are saying nothing to spare my feelings. I feel I need to clear the air with my daughter, but my wife says to let sleeping dogs lie. Advice?

OLD DOG IN THE WEST

DEAR OLD DOG: I agree with your wife. You raised your daughter, and she is as much your child as if she had "come from your loins." You ARE her dad. IF she or one of her family members has been DNA tested and she hasn't broached the subject with you, it may be because she has no questions she wants to ask you. I see nothing to be gained by raising the subject now.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to "Paying Respects in California" (Feb. 19), the married man who wondered if it was weird for him to attend the funeral of an old school friend (female) and to go alone.

At my mother's funeral (our father had passed years before), a few of my mom's old school friends, male and female, showed up and stopped to tell us how they had gone to school with her and wanted to pay their respects. One gentleman said he went on a few dates with her. Another confessed he had the biggest crush on her in school.

Whether they had wives at home or not never crossed our minds at the time. We were just so touched that they came, and that after all these years she still meant something to them. And we loved hearing about the crush. We were so happy and tickled to hear these stories about our school-aged mom at a time when our hearts were broken because of her loss.

Yes, "Paying Respects" should go to the funeral. I am sure her family will appreciate it.

BILLIE JO IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR BILLIE JO: Thank you for your letter. Your sentiments were echoed by many other readers. One commented that she attended the viewing of a former co-worker she wasn't close to ONLY out of respect for his mother who was still alive. Others expressed experiencing a sense of closure from reconnecting with the family and friends of someone they knew in the past.

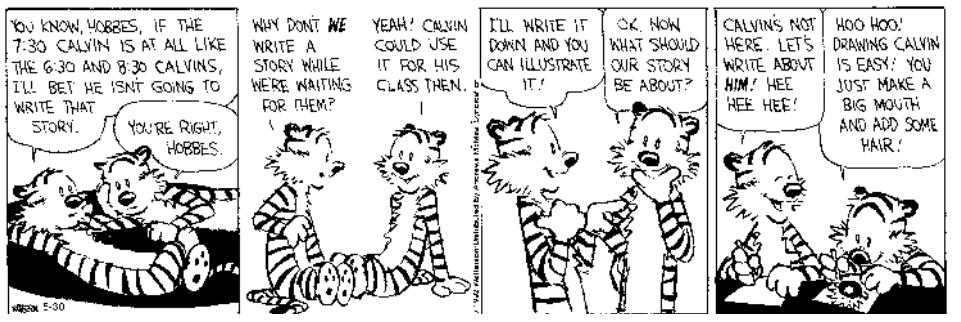
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

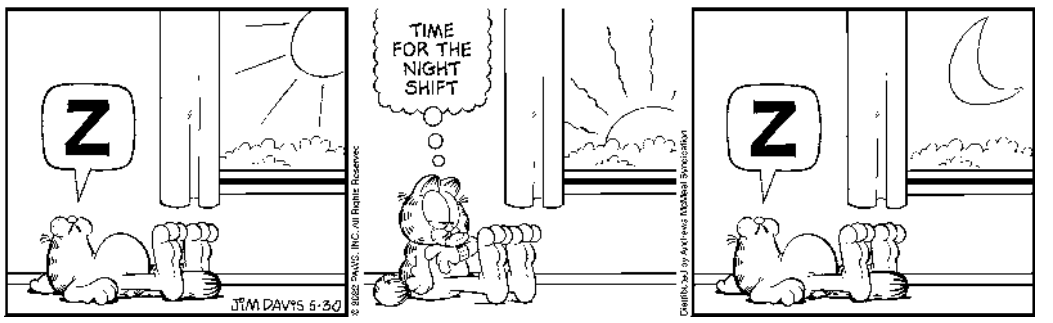
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU KNOW, HOBBES, IF THE 7:30 CALVIN IS AT ALL LIKE THE 6:30 AND 8:30 CALVINS, I'LL BET HE ISN'T GOING TO WRITE THAT STORY.
YOU'RE RIGHT, HOBBES.
WHY DON'T WE WRITE A STORY WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THEM?
YEAH! CALVIN COULD USE IT FOR HIS CLASS THEN.
I'LL WRITE IT DOWN AND YOU CAN ILLUSTRATE IT!
O.K. NOW WHAT SHOULD OUR STORY BE ABOUT?
CALVIN'S NOT HERE. LET'S WRITE ABOUT HIM! HEE HEE HEE!
HOO HOO! DRAWING CALVIN IS EASY! YOU JUST MAKE A BIG MOUTH AND ADD SOME HAIR!

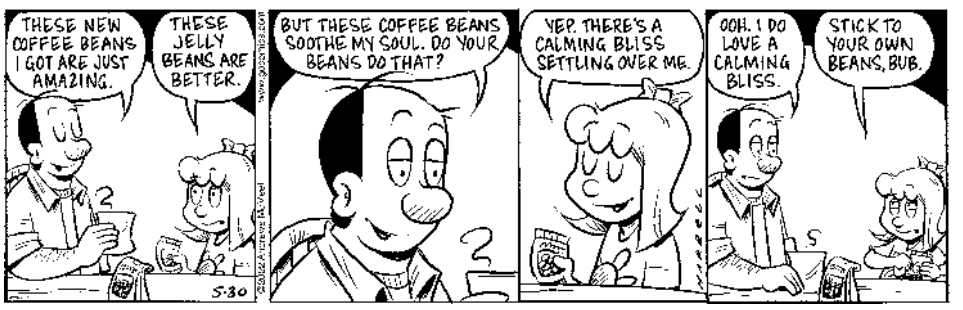
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THESE NEW COFFEE BEANS I GOT ARE JUST AMAZING.
THESE JELLY BEANS ARE BETTER.
BUT THESE COFFEE BEANS SOOTHE MY SOUL. DO YOUR BEANS DO THAT?
YEP. THERE'S A CALMING BLISS SETTLING OVER ME.
OOH. I DO LOVE A CALMING BLISS.
STICK TO YOUR OWN BEANS, BUB.
5-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Protrude
4 Tolerate
9 "Terrif!"
12 Santa — winds
13 Bad habits
14 Co. that created Watson
15 Em-ployee's set of values
17 "Yucky!"
18 Business mag
19 Barbe-cues
21 Hall & Oates, e.g.
24 Gare du — (Paris train station)
25 Turkish title
26 Aachen article
28 Floored
31 Seized vehicle
33 Neither here — there
35 Sushi wrapper
36 Stays fresh
38 — Moines
40 2016 Olympics city
41 Oboe insert
43 Ship of fuels
45 Game show prize
47 Tennis feat
48 Sean — Lennon
49 Durable thing
54 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
55 A year in Paris
56 Sharing word
57 Tibetan bovine
58 You'll get a rise out of it
59 Not 'neath

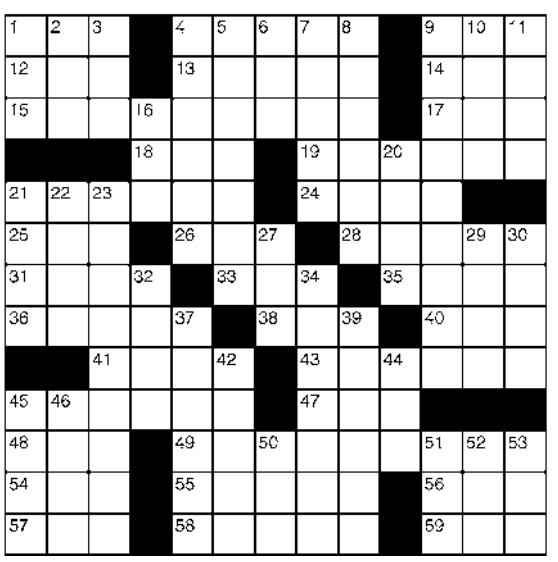
DOWN

1 Mandible
2 Family card game
3 Sailor
4 Broad street
5 Digital currency
6 German pronoun
7 Stoop (to)
8 Real estate account
9 Off-site research
10 First victim
11 Upscale wheels
16 Josh
20 Laundry appliance
21 Picnic spot
22 Curved molding
23 Clerical task
27 Silent assent
29 Canal of song
30 Couturier Christian
32 Oil cartel
34 Studio do-overs
37 Ocean lane
39 Potpourri pouch
42 Un-manned plane
44 "The Matrix" character
45 Prying
46 "May It Be" singer
50 Genetic letters
51 Kanga's kid
52 Novelist Grafton
53 Blunder

Solution time: 26 mins.

P	A	L	■	G	P	A	■	C	A	R	A	I
A	I	A	■	R	U	N	■	A	P	A	C	F
P	O	T	■	U	P	■	O	S	P	E	E	D
A	I	I	I	■	B	I	E	R	S	■	■	■
W	A	N	G	■	L	O	S	■	R	E	M	O
■	■	■	L	A	S	■	O	Y	S	T	E	R
F	P	C	O	T	■	■	■	O	V	A	■	S
C	U	R	V	E	S	■	H	J	P	■	■	■
O	B	O	E	■	C	P	A	■	S	W	A	G
■	■	■	■	P	A	R	S	E	■	H	E	E
U	P	T	O	S	N	U	F	F	■	I	S	T
M	O	O	D	S	■	N	U	T	■	M	O	T
P	L	E	A	T	■	E	N	S	■	S	P	Y

Last Friday's Answer 05/30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Winget, 37; Rory Bushfield, 39; Idina Menzel, 51; Wynonna Judd, 58.

Happy Birthday: Check out the possibilities, and start something new and exciting. Let your creativity flourish and your actions display your determination. Show how passionate and willing you are to bring about positive change. Stand tall, do your best and don't fear being different. Take the initiative to practice proper diet and fitness to maintain good health. Don't take unnecessary risks. Your numbers are 8, 12, 26, 33, 38, 44, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Share your ideas and drum up interest. Demonstrate how you plan to get things done, and make a difference. Your actions will be impressive and will draw positive attention that will encourage significant opportunities and a brighter future. Challenge yourself and shoot for the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consistency will be essential if you plan to leave a good impression. Consider your options and the best way to use your skills. Refuse to let anyone limit your preferences or decisions. Be willing and prepared to take on responsibilities alone. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll win support by reaching out with kindness and making others feel welcome. Don't make promises you cannot keep. Express yourself honestly, and process the input you receive before making a move or change. Don't jeopardize your reputation or position. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your plans simple and your responsibilities updated. Extend help, and you will bring about positive change. Don't limit what you can do because someone puts demands on you. Make your priorities clear; avoid taking on too much. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Establish what you want to achieve and how to exceed your expectations. Refuse to let what others do or say lead you astray. Pay attention and put your energy and enthusiasm where it counts. Don't jeopardize your health to appease someone's demands. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep an open mind and look for opportunities to learn something new. Business trips, educational pursuits and challenging yourself mentally and physically will encourage you to alter how you live and spend your downtime. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Switch into high gear. Listen to suggestions and use whatever's helpful to reach your objective. Your attitude will play a role when dealing with others. Be prepared to work alone if you feel dawdlers are holding you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Relationships require attention. Offer consistency, insight and compromise if you want someone to work alongside you. Be upfront about what you are willing to do. Romance and honest communication will promote unity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Implement changes at home that encourage comfort. Being able to kick back and enjoy your downtime will ease stress and mentally prepare you to handle your responsibilities professionally. Take care of your physical well-being. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep life simple and your workload doable. Don't make unrealistic promises, or a lack of respect will follow. Pace yourself, and keep everyone updated regarding your progress and the changes you intend to make. Changes around the home and self-improvement are favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time at home and less time interacting with friends, relatives or peers. Protect your reputation and prospects, and go about your business. What you do will have an impact on the way others perceive you. Change only what's necessary. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share what's necessary,go about your business. Make adjustments that ensure you take care of your responsibilities before moving on to more pleasurable pastimes. Keep the peace, share your feelings and intentions, and spruce up your looks. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are empathetic, direct and helpful. You are expressive and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		6		4		5	
				8				
	8	5		1		4	9	
4			7		9			1
	3	9	5		6	8	7	
5			8		1			6
	1	7		9		3	6	
				5				
	5		1		2		4	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	9	5	8	6	7	4	2	1
7	6	8	1	4	2	9	5	3
4	1	2	9	5	3	8	6	7
8	3	4	5	7	6	1	9	2
9	7	6	4	2	1	3	8	5
2	5	1	3	8	9	7	4	6
5	4	7	2	3	8	6	1	9
6	8	9	7	1	5	2	3	4
1	2	3	6	9	4	5	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

COZY SOFAS Solution: 8 letters

C	E	H	C	T	E	R	T	S	T	U	R	D	Y	N
R	I	G	C	F	R	A	U	P	C	H	A	I	S	E
E	E	R	A	O	E	F	R	O	C	K	E	R	R	D
N	L	N	B	S	E	L	E	N	G	T	H	U	T	O
I	Y	E	R	A	S	N	U	G	S	H	T	R	P	O
L	T	F	T	O	F	A	L	E	M	I	O	I	E	W
C	S	H	F	O	C	O	M	O	N	P	L	A	E	D
E	E	L	A	U	U	I	O	R	P	L	R	H	L	A
R	G	M	I	N	L	R	U	U	O	M	O	C	S	E
E	N	V	G	P	G	F	S	W	T	Ⓝ	Ⓐ	Ⓟ	I	R
H	I	E	N	N	P	L	U	S	H	D	A	V	N	T
T	T	L	I	N	R	E	D	O	M	C	O	L	O	R
A	T	V	R	M	A	E	R	D	E	M	U	O	S	I
E	I	E	P	E	P	A	H	S	O	F	A	O	R	K
L	S	T	S	I	L	H	O	U	E	T	T	E	C	S

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Last Friday's Answer: Black Sea

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Ryan and Reich could be a winning match in Indianapolis

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—For a few weeks, the Indianapolis Colts had a huge void at quarterback. Then the Deshaun Watson carousel began spinning, and soon enough, Matt Ryan was available.

Colts coach Frank Reich couldn't contain his enthusiasm about Ryan on Monday morning as AFC coaches met reporters at the NFL owners meeting. Who can blame Reich?

The Colts' game of musical chairs at the position has been going on for too long, from Andrew Luck's injuries and subsequent retirement through Jacoby Brissett, Philip Rivers and Carson Wentz. Ryan seems to be the right guy to settle in for a while.

"I don't see any diminishing play or skills," Reich said of the 36-year-old Ryan, who was acquired from Atlanta after the Falcons' failed bid to trade for Watson, who went from Houston to Cleveland.

"As soon as he became a possibility ... we were very happy that Matt became available. "That's a credit to (general manager) Chris (Ballard) and his leadership. We were poised. We weren't going to panic."

Once the pieces began to fall together elsewhere, the Colts, who had traded Wentz to Washington earlier in March, asked permission from Atlanta to talk with Ryan, the 2016 league MVP. There was a virtual meeting in which Ryan, Reich and the Colts' staff clicked immediately.

"I had cutups made of a lot of our offensive plays," Reich said. "Just kind of walking through some of your plays, talking offensive football, wanting Matt to envision himself in our offense and some of things that we could do.

"It was apparent very quickly that there was an instant connection in every way. Personally, but also football-wise. The way we think about the game."

AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Matt Ryan holds his new jersey following a press conference at the NFL team's practice facility in Indianapolis, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

HITTING THE STRIP

As if there's not enough for folks to do in Las Vegas, the NFL will offer a main source of entertainment late next month during its draft.

The actual selections will begin Thursday, April 28 with the first round, followed the next day by the second and third rounds, and the final four rounds on April 30. Running concurrently will be the NFL Draft Experience, also on The Strip, located behind the High Roller and the LINQ hotels, adjacent to Caesars Forum.

Construction on the theater where the drafting will occur begins Friday.

"We were on the precipice two years ago and then the world shut down," says Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president who handles league events, noting that the virtual draft held in 2020 originally was scheduled for Las Vegas. "We're in a very different world today than we were for the virtual draft. The Los Angeles Super Bowl felt like we are fully back."

On Monday, the league launched NFL OnePass, where fans can download the app to play games at Draft Experience, receive digital content, and enter sweepstakes that include among the prizes a trip for two to the Super Bowl next February in Glendale, Arizona.

The experience itself will have immersive exhibits and a youth-focused Play 60 Zone. The three Vince Lombardi Trophies won by the Raiders will be on hand, as well as a display of Super Bowl rings. There will be opportunities for fans to do a 40-yard dash, and a vertical jump against NFL players on LED screens. A player autograph area also is included.

Each day at the conclusion of the draft will be free concerts in the theater where the actual draft will occur. Artists have yet to be announced.

"We take on the city as a character in the play, to imbed ourselves in the character of the city," O'Reilly says of using iconic locations such as Caesars and the Bellagio's fountains as the backdrop for the draft. "First we have to get the core right, the selection process. And then we have this 'free festival,' the Draft Experience. It's like an oasis in our offseason."

HALL OF FAME CONCERT

The Pro Football Hall of Fame is going back a few decades for its headline act at the Concert for Legends.

Journey will take the stage on Aug. 6, hours after the inductions of the class of 2002, which have been switched to a Saturday afternoon.

Being inducted this year as modern-era players are Sam Mills, Bryant Young, LeRoy Butler, Tony Boselli, Richard Seymour. Coach Dick Vermeil, contributor Art McNally, and senior player Cliff Branch also will be enshrined.

"Journey has been entertaining its fans for almost 50 years since the band's founding, and we are thrilled to be working with Hall of Fame Village to bring these members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to the Hall of Fame city," said Jim Porter, president of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Formed in San Francisco in 1973, Journey is one of the most recognizable groups in rock and pop music, known for megahits "Don't Stop Believin'," "Separate Ways (Worlds Apart)," "Any Way You Want It," "Faithfully," and "Lights."

HARD KNOCKS

The Detroit Lions will be the team in the spotlight during the preseason for HBO's "Hard Knocks" series.

The five-episode series will debut Aug. 9. It is the 17th edition of the Sports Emmy-winning series.

Camera crews will shoot most of the show at the Lions' training camp in Allen Park, Michigan, and will chronicle coach Dan Campbell entering his second season in Detroit. The episodes will be narrated by Liev Schreiber, marking his 16th season with the show.

"We are excited about the opportunity to showcase the city of Detroit and the amazing culture we are building at the Lions," said Lions president and CEO Rod Wood.

Hard Knocks launched with the Ravens in 2001, followed by the Cowboys in 2002. It resumed in 2007 with the Chiefs, followed by the Cowboys (2008), Bengals (2009), Jets (2010), Dolphins (2012), Bengals (2013), Falcons (2014), Texans (2015), Rams (2016), Buccaneers (2017), Browns (2018), and Raiders (2019). For 2020, the show focused on both Los Angeles franchises, and last year Dallas made its third appearance.

RADIO RIGHTS

Cumulus Media's Westwood One, the largest audio network in the nation, and the NFL extended and expanded their partnership Monday. The multi-year agreement was expected; Westwood One has been the official network partner of the NFL for more than three straight decades and 50 years overall.

Westwood One will continue to provide play-by-play coverage for games on Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights; Thanksgiving Day; select international games; and the entire postseason through the Super Bowl. The NFL on Westwood One reaches more than 56 million listeners each season.

Added to the package will be a digital platform element as well as availability of the prime-time broadcasts on the NFL app; expanded coverage of NFL Honors, the scouting combine, the draft, and the schedule release; and mechanisms toward creating new alternate game broadcasts.

"Audio is an important platform for the NFL, and Westwood One has a long history of delivering excellent game broadcasts and other content, said Brent Lawton, league vice president of media strategy and business development.

Sources: Governor to propose $500M for new Titans stadium

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee plans to propose $500 million in bonds in the state budget to help fund a new covered Tennessee Titans stadium envisioned for Nashville, two sources confirmed to The Associated Press.

The two people are familiar with the details of the governor's funding amendment and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the governor's budget amendment has not been released. It's scheduled for a public discussion Tuesday in front of Tennessee lawmakers, who would also need to approve of the plan to authorize state bonds. The funding would fill in one piece of the puzzle for the Titans, who have gone from trying to modernize the existing Nissan Stadium to working on plans for a new stadium right next door after renovation costs more than doubled to $1.2 billion. Nashville Mayor John Cooper has lowered expectations about any potential funding from the metro government, saying earlier this month that "fundamentally, the city is not in the entertainment or stadium business itself."

The sources mentioned that the new stadium plans would include some kind of roof, with one source saying the funding would be contingent on the stadium being enclosed. A covered stadium, whether it's a fixed or retractable roof, could help Nashville compete for the biggest events in or outside of sports, from the Super Bowl to NCAA basketball Final Four. Axios Nashville first reported on the governor's proposed funding for the new stadium.

The push comes as the Buffalo Bills landed an agreement Monday for a proposed $1.4 billion new open-air stadium, fueled by a record $850 million taxpayer price tag to help secure the franchise's future in the region for the next 30-plus years.

The Bills and Titans stadiums, and the increasing price tags to fund such projects, will undoubtedly reignite arguments over whether taxpayers should be on the hook for new high-end sports facilities.

Earlier this month, Titans President Burke Nihill discussed the team's plans at a Metro Sports Authority board meeting, according to The Tennessean. The Titans currently are working with Metro Nashville officials on the design and costs of building a new stadium on Nissan's parking lots between the stadium and Interstate 24.

Nihill noted inflation is driving costs higher, and both Nashville and the Titans want to finish work in time for the 2026 season.

The stadium opened in 1999 on a 30-year lease and the Titans had originally planned to renovate it for $292 million. Nashville officials have been working on plans for a year to redevelop hundreds of acres around Nissan Stadium on the east bank of the Cumberland River.

That included renovating Nissan Stadium, with the first estimate $600 million. That doubled when contractors raised new concerns about the condition of the stadium and its infrastructure.

Nihill has said a new stadium is the better value in the long run.

"This is a very basic building in the eyes of the NFL," Nihill said. "This is one of the bottom 20% of buildings in the NFL built before 9/11. Security enhancements adopted by the NFL haven't been added."

Nihill estimated that reaching a deal for the new stadium, how to pay for it and design the new building could take more than a year. Construction should take 31 months.

New Caledonia, Tahiti seeded in badminton mixed team event

New Caledonia and Tahiti are the Top 2 seeds in the mixed team event of the badminton competition in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Two-time mixed team champion, New Caledonia, will enter the tournament as top seed based on the world ranking points of their players, followed by Tahiti as second seed.

Badminton has been part of the Pacific Games sporting program in four editions since 2003—Fiji (2003), New Caledonia (2011) and Samoa (2007 and 2019—with a mixed team event and individual tournament taking place in each edition. The multi-sport Games are held every four years with the Mini Games (lesser number of sports offered) held two years after the Pacific Games, also on a four-year cycle.

This year, badminton will be featured at the Pacific Mini Games for the first time in the Northern Marianas 2022 edition (rescheduled from its original date in 2021) with competitions taking place from June 20 to 25.

In 2019, the highly anticipated final game between New Caledonia and Tahiti came to an electrifying finish. New Caledonia's narrow 3-2 victory caused a three-way tie for the gold, with Fiji also in contention. The countback awarded Fiji with the gold medal, followed by New Caledonia (silver) and Tahiti (bronze). Fiji won't be competing in 2022 and Tahiti will be seeking vengeance for their bronze finish.

BADMINTON OCEANIA

From left, New Caledonia, Fiji, and Tahiti players pose for a photo at the medal ceremony for the mixed team event in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia. New Caledonia and Tahiti will be the Top 2 seeds in the mixed team event in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

NMI takes on Tahiti in opener

Tournament host Northern Marianas is thrilled to be competing in front of a home crowd after making its Pacific Games debut in Samoa 2019. Three years ago, the NMI was commended for the self-sufficient methods including YouTube videos and self-led exercises (before the age of the COVID-19 pandemic) to coach themselves and learn the skills to compete. Since then, the Northern Marianas Badminton Association has expanded, and the sport increased in popularity as it took advantage of the BWF MA Grants to support grassroots programs and had taken part in Badminton Oceania's player development programs. The NMI players' skills will be put to the test straight away as they have to take on No. 2 seed Tahiti in their opening game.

Overall, there are six countries competing, with Wallis and Futuna (Badminton Oceania's newest member association) excited to make its international badminton team debut. Wallis and Futuna will open its campaign on Day 1 against the top seeds.

Meanwhile, Guam will field a team (last seen at the VICTOR Oceania Mixed Team Championships 2019), fresh from training with Level 2 coach Ian Piencenaves (part of Badminton Oceania's player development program) and exhibition matches with its neighbors and host, Northern Marianas. Similarly, the Solomon Islands will go one better than its Pacific Games 2019 appearance, where its three players only competed in the individual competition. Guam and Solomon Islands will square off in the first round of the round-robin-format competition. The highly anticipated match between New Caledonia and Tahiti will be the last tie to take place on Wednesday, June 22.

Play commences from 9am (local time, GMT+10) on Monday, June 20. Follow the latest updates on Badminton Oceania's Facebook page and website. The draws and seedings for the Individual events will be available this week. ***(Badminton Oceania)***

AYANO

From Page 20

pitality of the island will never be paralleled and she really appreciates the locals' warmth.

"A lot of people cheer me on despite me not knowing them. Everyone is just friendly here. We'll also visit Saipan in the future especially when our family goes on vacation to Japan," she said.

Aoi, 15, said like her mother she will definitely miss her close friends when they move to the U.S. mainland.

"Sad that I'm leaving my friends here. I will miss my friends, food, and the people around here."

The former Grace Christian Academy student said she will also focus on new sports like volleyball and cheerleading after swimming for Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center in the past.

"I also want time for myself because when I had a lot of activities I didn't have too much time for myself," she said.

Kaya, for her part, said she will also miss her friends at GCA.

"I'm gonna miss them a lot…we'll be starting a new life together as a family… I also wanna do volleyball, soccer, but not sure about swimming anymore," said the 11-year-old, adding that it's unfortunate that they're leaving prior to the start of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 where she wanted to volunteer.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. wished the Braxtons good luck in their new adventure but also admitted that Ayano will surely be missed by the club.

"Ayano is going to be missed. She's made a huge impact in not just athletics but triathlon as well just like Shuji Kuroda and Marshall Hoskins in their short time on Saipan. Her story of why she runs is an example for us all that you can beat diseases with a change of life style, hard work, and perseverance. We wish her and her family the best out there."

Ayano Braxton recently revealed in Run Saipan's newsletter that her active lifestyle has allowed her to beat cancer.

Just some of the elder Braxton's list of athletic accomplishments on Saipan include finishing first place in the following events: the Inaugural Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run in March 18, 2022, part of the Run Saipan team that won the non-profit club's Inaugural Marianas Ekiden in Feb. 19, 2002, Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race in Nov. 28, 2021, Tryouts for Oceania Cycling Confederation's Pacific Cup in Aug. 9, 2021, and the 5th Off-Road Duathlon in November 2020.

INCENTIVES

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Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility from June 21 to 25, while badminton games will take place at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium from June 20 to 25. Baseball and tennis will have an early start with games set to begin on June 16 and last until June 25, and matches will be held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios for the former and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and American Memorial Park tennis courts for the latter. Beach volleyball (Crowne Plaza on Saipan and some games on Tinian), triathlon (Rota), *va'a* (13 Fishermen Monument) and weightlifting (Marianas High School) are all set from June 20 to 24, while golf will hit the greens of Coral Ocean Resort from June 21 to 24.

More than 1,000 athletes, officials, and guests from 20 countries will gather on Saipan for the opening ceremonies set for June 17. Joining host the CNMI in this year's Pacific Mini Games are American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna.

Meanwhile, the Northern Marianas Sports Association thanked Torres for providing incentives to NMI athletes and for his continued support in ensuring the successful delivery of the Mini Games.

Incentive programs for medalists are standard practice across the globe, especially for host countries. In the Pacific, when Papua New Guinea hosted the 2015 Pacific Games, PNG awarded K20,000 (Kina), which is equivalent to nearly $6,000 to team and individual gold medalists. In the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu, the host country gave Vt250,000 (over $2,000) to team and individual gold medalists. ***(PR)***

NMIVA

From Page 20

Games. I grew up playing beach volleyball on Saipan and took my game to the next level when I moved to California for college. Since then, I've been playing in lots of tournaments up and down the coast and am confident going into the Mini Games, especially with Logan as my partner."

The Saipan International School alumnus said he's very confident with the abilities of his doubles partner, Mister, and both of them will do their best to make the home crowd proud of them.

"Logan is a very dedicated and easygoing young man, and he's got a bright future ahead of him. Right now we are in San Luis Obispo (my home on California's central coast) doing drills, training, and/or playing games every day. We are also going to be playing in two high level tournaments during the next couple weekends in Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Men's Beach Volleyball Team Andrew Johnson, left, and Logan Mister after a training session at a beach in San Luis Obispo, California.

He and Mister are set to arrive on Saipan on June 7 and plan to continue training until the Mini Games begin.

"Training consists of mostly weightlifting, plyometrics, cardio, drills, games, and of course eating healthy meals. We are very excited for this opportunity to represent our community on the same beach where we grew up playing."

Mister, for his part, said it feels great to be selected to the national team, especially that he's following the footsteps of his father, Tyce, who with Chris Nelson won a gold medal in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan. He teamed up with his father and represented the CNMI in beach volleyball in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

"Both my partner and I have been working hard and are excited to show our competition that we can play. Andrew is a great partner and our skills definitely complement each other. He is the quick defensive player in the back and I am the blocker at the net. I am currently staying with Andrew in California where we are training every day for the upcoming games. We are playing in tournaments all around California because the level of play here is very high for beach volleyball," he said.

Winkfield and Lizama echoed Johnson and Mister when asked what were their reactions after being named to the beach volleyball national team.

"I am excited and honored to be selected for the national team. I do hope my partner and I put up a good challenge against the countries participating. I feel confident in my partner's abilities because she has a solid foundation and believe we make a strong team," said Winkfield.

"I am honored to be selected and to represent the CNMI. My partner has the competitive edge and passion for the sport. I am confident in her skills and know we will do well in the Mini Games," said Lizama.

Heat, Celtics set to finally decide East champion

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Incentives for CNMI medalists in Mini Games 2022

Cash incentives await CNMI athletes who will win medals in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will give $5,000 to gold medalists, $2,500 to silver medalists, and $1,000 to bronze medalists in team and individual sports. On top of the incentive package, Torres will award $1,000 to each member of a squad that will win gold medals in their respective team events. Individual event gold medalists will also get an additional $1,000.

"Our athletes are indeed 'Rising Up to the Challenge' as they've been working hard since last year to get ready for the 2022 Northern Mariana Pacific Mini Games. We acknowledge their efforts and commitment to their sports and to Team NMI and wish them good luck in next month's competition," Torres said.

"More than the monetary incentive, our Team NMI will be inspired to give their best in the competition as they see our community watching the Games and cheering for them, so let's rally behind our athletes and support them in their bid to bring honor to our islands," Torres added.

The Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 will run from June 17 to 25 and will feature nine sports. Athletics will have its competition at the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres addresses the crowd during the launching of the one-year countdown to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Oleai Sports Complex last year. Torres will provide incentives to CNMI medalists in the Mini Games that will run from June 17 to 25.

Ayano Braxton says *sayonara*

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Multi-titled runner and cyclist Ayano Braxton and her two daughters will be saying *sayonora* to Saipan tomorrow as they're relocating to San Antonio, Texas to reunite with Braxton's husband and Aoi and Kaya's father, James.

The 43-year-old Run Saipan member said she will truly miss her second home after moving to the island with white powdery sand and crystal clear azure waters 17 years ago.

"I moved to Saipan because of the beautiful ocean and there's a lot of Japanese and the view is breathtaking. I'm really going to miss it," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Braxton said she will try to continue running and cycling in Texas despite the state's weather being a little dry and hot. One thing she will not be doing in the Lone Star State though is free diving.

"I'll surely miss the ocean, my friends that help me all the time, and the weather…the most memorable sports events I took part in will always be the triathlons where I won age groups categories before," said Yokohama, Japan native.

Braxton added that the hos-

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MARK RABAGO

Ayano Braxton poses with her daughters Kaya, left, and Aoi at Micro Beach a little over a week before leaving the island for San Antonio, Texas.

NMIVA names Mini Games team

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association has named its men's and women's national teams for the beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charnessa Lizama, left, Kathy Winkfield will represent the CNMI in the women's beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Mini Games national beach volleyball coach Tyce Mister named to the men's team Andrew Johnson and Logan Mister, while named to the women's team are Kathy Winkfield and Charnessa Lizama.

Johnson said he's definitely looking forward to representing his home islands in the quadrennial event set next month.

"I feel very humbled and motivated to represent the NMI in the upcoming Mini

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